Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 270 | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe the federal government should step in and help resolve the crisis surrounding CUC?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

New Phone

Google Inc. on Tuesday showed off a cellphone that could provide the first real challenge to Apple Inc.'s iPhone.

TECHNOLOGY...Page 30

Newlyweds

Samson Tan of Palms Resort Saipan and Glorybel Oro of Gold's Gym get married!

LIFE & STYLE...Page 32

NMC maps out four-pronged strategic plan. PAGE 3

Bordallo: National wildlife refuge system at risk. PAGE 7

DPH warns vs Chinese milk products

White Rabbit Creamy Candies

The Department of Public Health is warning the public not to buy any milk products with ingredients that came from China in the wake of findings that an industrial chemical has made its way into China's dairy supplies, blamed for the death of four babies.

AP

Workers conduct melamine tests on milk samples in Hohhot, China.

The health advisory, issued yesterday, says that milk or food products with

See DPH on Page 4

CONTACT INFO

Bureau of Environmental Health, 664-4870

AFFECTED PRODUCTS

- Milk products from China
- White Rabbit Creamy Candies
- Mr. Brown 3-in-1 instant coffee mix
- King Car products from Taiwan

What is melamine?

Melamine is an organic base chemical most commonly found in the form of white crystals rich in nitrogen. It is widely used in plastics, adhesives, countertops, dishware, whiteboards.

The products pictured are powdered Mr. Brown coffee mixes that have been distributed by King Car in Taiwan.

Why was melamine added into milk and powdered infant formula

In China, where adulteration has occurred, water has been added to raw milk to increase its volume. As a result of this dilution the milk has a lower protein concentration. Companies using the milk for further production (e.g. of powdered infant formula) normally check the protein level through a test measuring nitrogen content. The addition of melamine

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GAO to join probe vs Wespac

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The federal investigation of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Council's executive director, Rose "Kitty" Muller Simonds, is moving into a new phase.

A team from the U.S. Government Accountability Office is expected to be fully engaged by late September 2008, joining the ongoing efforts by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Inspector General. The investigation was requested by the

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From $30M, Fund losses down to $9M

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Aguon

The NMI Retirement Fund has recovered most of the losses from the stock market crash last week, but it is still eyeing the situation closely.

Fund Administrator Mark Aguon said the market crisis, when it first hit last week, wiped out about $30 million of the Fund's investments. But the Fund eventually got its money back and, as of Tuesday, has cut its losses down to $9 million.

"The market has been sta-

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Pula: Power crisis is No.1 priority

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Saipan's electric power crisis is the "No. 1 priority" in the CNMI for the Office of Insular Affairs, its director, Nikolao Pula, said in a Thursday press confer-

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Nikolao Pula, director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, answers questions from the local media while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio S. Muña listen during yesterday's press conference at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Local

PUC set to hire two experts for rate study

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Public Utilities Commission is poised to enter into no-bid contracts with a consulting firm and a hearing examiner.

PUC chairwoman Viola Alepuyo in a letter to key administration officials said the commission intends to hire the Georgetown Consulting Group as its utility regulation consulting firm and Harry Boertzel as hearing examiner.

Both Georgetown and Boertzel have served in similar capacities for the Guam Public Utilities Commission for approximately 20 years.

Alepuyo said Georgetown and Boertzel will help the PUC review and set utility rates before the Dec. 31, 2008, deadline set by law. If the PUC fails to meet this deadline, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be forced to reduce power rates down to 17 cents per kWh—a prospect that will make it impossible for CUC to pay for fuel supply and maintenance of its engines and to pay its independent power producers.

According to the PUC chief, this circumstance constitutes a threat to public welfare and is ground to sole-source the services of Georgetown and Boertzel.

"Both GCG and Mr. Boertzel have extensive and specialized knowledge in their respective fields," Alepuyo said in the letter addressed to Attorney General Matthew Gregory, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, and Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan.

She said PUC stands to benefit from Georgetown and Boertzel's experience with Guam's previous power crisis. Georgetown and Boertzel, she added, played integral roles in Guam's recovery from that crisis, and both are held in high regard and recommended by the Guam PUC.

In addition to the Guam PUC, Georgetown has served as consultant for utility regulatory agencies in 13 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as to various public advocates, intervenor groups, and corporate clients around the country.

The PUC anticipates to pay professional fees amounting to $132,500 to Georgetown, and about $20,000 to $25,000 to Boertzel for the CUC rate study. Out-of-pocket expenses are not included in these estimates.

Trader, agent found using 2 firms in fraudulent recruitment scheme

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has found a businessman and his agent involved in a fraudulent scheme to recruit three workers from China for non-existing jobs on Saipan, using two dummy firms.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll sanctioned Kuan Y. Leung, his agent Lin Yubao, and two corporations—Jinji Corp., and Liberty Corp.—in the amount of $2,000 each and disqualified them from hiring nonresident workers.

Soll found the four respondents jointly indebted to each of the three workers—Zhou Yincheng, Lu Yinxiang and Zhang Naiqin—in the amount of $10,370, for a total of $31,110 representing illegal fees and transportation costs.

All four respondents were also found jointly liable to pay each of the three complainants $6,864, for a total of $20,592 representing anticipated wages that would have been earned had the contracts been legitimate.

Soll said each of the complainants is entitled to transfer should they elect to do so. The workers earlier told Labor they want to go home.

The three workers told Labor it was Yubao who encouraged them to work on Saipan. Lubao has varying family connections with the complainants in their home area of Jiangsu Province, China. Lubao called each of them with the intention of recruiting them to work on Saipan.

Yubao told Yincheng that he has work for him on Saipan as a construction worker. When Yincheng agreed to accept the job, he was told to send photographs, a copy of his passport and other personal information to Saipan.

Yincheng was also asked for the equivalent of $9,745 for processing and recruitment, which the worker paid.

Similar to Yincheng's recruitment, Yinxiang and Naiqin were told that restaurant work awaited them on Saipan. The two also paid $9,745 for processing and recruitment. They too sent photographs, passport copies and other personal data to Saipan.

The documents were transmitted to the Liberty Corp., where Leung is a shareholder and director.

The Labor records contain, among other things, employment certification indicating that the three complainants are beauticians and have worked in that capacity for the required amount of time. Each of the complainants denied signing any of the documents.

The employer listed on the Labor documents is Jinji Corp.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK
SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2008
4 STEPS FOR KIDS
1
2
3
4
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FORWARD-FACING
BOOSTER
SEAT BELT
Raise your child right. If they're under 4'9", put them in a booster seat.
STEP 1
Rear-Facing Child Seats
for children from birth to at least 20 pounds and at least one year of age.
STEP 2
Forward-Facing Child Seats
for children over 20 pounds and at least one year old to about 40 pounds and about age four.
STEP 3
Belt-Positioning booster Seats
for children from about 40 pounds to about 80 pounds and 4'9".
STEP 4
Seat Belts
for older children large enough for the belt to fit correctly at least 4'9" tall and about 80 pounds.
If you have any questions regarding car seats
or would like to have your car seat inspected, please call
664-9084/85
Department of Public Safety
www.boosterseat.gov
www.dps.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Project: Municipal Solid Waste Landfill
Location: Tinian Island, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Proposing
Agencies: CNMI Department of Public Works and The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Agent: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District
Building 230, Room 312
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440
Contact: Mr. James Hatashima, Project Manager
Phone: (808) 438-2264
Email: James.K.Hatashima@usace.army.mil

This is a notification that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) based on the findings of a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) have been prepared for the subject project. The FNSI and EA are available for public review at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library (Saipan), and the Tinian Municipal Public Library (Tinian).

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Works with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, and in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, propose the construction of a new regulatory compliant municipal solid waste landfill (MSWL) on the island of Tinian. The purpose of the new MSWL is to replace the existing non-regulatory compliant open-burning dump currently being used for all solid waste disposal on the island. The proposed MSWL would accommodate Tinian's present and future solid waste demands in an environmentally compliant manner and eliminate the public health and environmental hazards associated with the continued operation of the existing open-burning dump.

Based upon the evaluation of this project as described in the EA and FNSI, it has been concluded that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the environment.

NMC maps out four-pronged strategic plan

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents yesterday unanimously approved a plan that will be included in the college's Oct. 15 report, illustrating the changes they have made in order to get off show-cause status.

The PROA Strategic Plan 2008-2012 lays out four goals for the college:

- promote student learning and success;
- respond to the professional development, continuing education, and personal enrichment needs of the Commonwealth;
- optimize financial and human resources; and
- accelerate the upgrade of physical and technological infrastructure. Each goal lists several initiatives to follow.

The Strategic Plan, along with a Composite Report, is being used to help define the college's operational budget for the year. The Board of Regents did not pass the budget yesterday, instead tabling it so the fiscal committee can make changes before presenting it to the board again on Oct. 9.

History

NMC has been on probation since February 2007 and was put on show-cause in February this year because, according to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges, the school did not address previous concerns.

The Oct. 15 report is the first step in NMC's attempt to get off show-cause. Three representatives from WASC will visit the college on Nov. 3, 4 and 5 to make sure the college is following the standards set in the report.

"They're here to ascertain that, in fact, the report is true and correct," NMC president Carmen Fernandez told the board members yesterday.

The accrediting committee will make a decision in January whether to reaffirm NMC's accreditation or terminate it.

Fernandez said the college's work does not end after Oct. 15. The NMC community needs to be aware of the report to be prepared for the visiting accrediting officials, she said.

KRNM update

The Board of Regents yesterday also voted to assign KRNM's non-commercial broadcast licenses to Marianas Educational Media Services. MEMS will continue the public radio format in the CNMI. Once the FCC approves NMC's application, KRNM's equipment can be liquidated. Although much of the equipment is obsolete due to technological gains, according to the Regents' memorandum, some items have retained their value in today's market.

"Depending on its condition, the sale price of the 100-foot tower should exceed the cost of safely removing it," the memorandum stated.

Meanwhile, Gov. Benigno Fitial appointed Bernadino R. Taitano to the Board of Regents. Taitano will replace former Regent Linsa F. Lizama.

Aguon keeps job as Fund administrator for 90 days

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Mark Aguon will continue serving as administrator of the NMI Retirement Fund, after the program's board of trustees extended his contract for 90 days.

Aguon, who was appointed to the job two years ago, was supposed to step down yesterday. But the Fund's board of trustees approved an extension to prevent a leadership vacuum.

Aguon has re-applied for the position. The only other candidate applying for the job is David Guerrero, who is the son-in-law of Fund chair Juan T. Guerrero.

In an interview, Juan Guerrero said he will not take part in the hiring of a new administrator. True to his word, he stepped out of the conference room as the rest of the members of the Fund board of trustees discussed the hiring issue yesterday.

Guerrero said he is leaving the decision up to the other trustees, so as to avoid any conflict of interest. "And if it becomes necessary—because we're in a crisis—I will consider talking to my son-in-law to withdraw his application," he added.

Guerrero noted that each of the two candidates has unique qualifications that could be of benefit to the Fund. Aguon, who has been with the Fund for 12 years, has institutional knowledge. David Guerrero, who has recently moved back to Saipan from the San Francisco Bay Area, brings with him years of experience in investment management.

The Fund board of trustees will interview both candidates on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008. Whoever gets selected will receive a maximum salary of $70,000 a year.

'PEARL OF SAIPAN' JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tourists enjoy the crystal clear waters, pristine white sand beach and palm trees of Mañagaha Island, which is also known as the "Pearl of Saipan".

Ahead of buildup, SBA advises Saipan businesses

The Small Business Administration's staff held one-on-one conferences with Saipan's business leaders Thursday to help them prepare for the windfall of government contracts and business opportunities many anticipate from the pending military build up on Guam.

SBA is the federal agency tasked with fostering the growth of small businesses. Held at the Aqua Resort Club, the conferences followed a presentation by SBA staff on how businesses can work with the federal government.

"It's a process that can get a business owner lost," said Commerce Secretary Michael Ada. "I would urge everybody in the business community not to wait. It's an effort and they should start working now."

Guam is now preparing for the arrival of an estimated 8,000 U.S. armed forces personnel and their 9,000 family members, who are slated for relocation from Okinawa, Japan, to the island. Military officials have said the move could necessitate scores of major construction projects and other support that would require local contractors.

Yet working with the federal government, as shown in the presentation, can prove a daunting and complicated task for the uninitiated, involving a maze of contract stipulations and a significant time commitment.

"Seek all the resources you can get to learn about federal contracts," said Kenneth Lujan, branch manager for SBA. "Don't sell yourself short with data. We'll provide people with links to these federal programs but it's really up to them to take advantage of it. Contracting with the government, it's a different playing field than on Saipan and we want to elevate the level of expertise." ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

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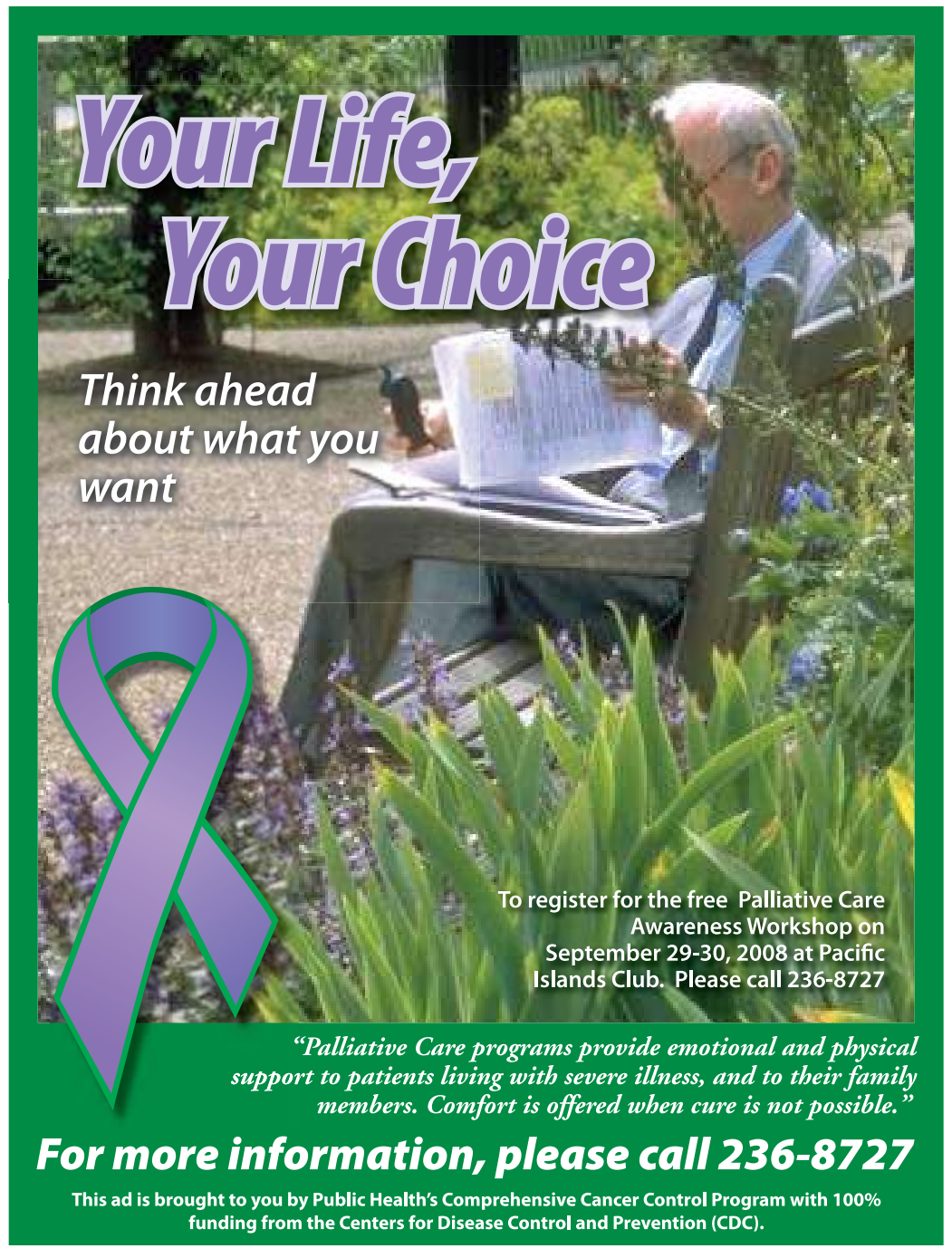
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GAO

From Page 1

U.S. House Oversight & Government Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Henry Waxman.

This investigation is the result of a series of complaints filed by several prominent Hawaii organizations and individuals, some who have been working for over a decade to see just such an investigation take place. Although many of Wespac's actions have been questioned through the years, this is the first time that a full on-site investigation has been conducted into specific and documented allegations.

The complainants are particularly interested in Simonds' and Council chair Sean Martin's actions and the expenditure of government funds to influence public policy related to waters exclusively under Hawai'is State jurisdiction (0 – 3 nautical miles). These allegations concern a series of meetings in Hawaii to organize a group of native Hawaiians to lobby the State Legislature. The meetings were sponsored and paid for using over $500,000 in taxpayer dollars and the questionable activities may have violated several federal laws.

It is also expected that the issue of illegal lobbying in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will come under scrutiny, as well as conflict of interest allegations against several Wespac council members for allegedly thwarting and subverting some of the very regulations Wespac is mandated to create and administer. These regulations govern the U.S. commercial fishing industry operating within U.S. territorial waters, the "exclusive economic zone," which extends from 3 to 200 nautical miles around the U.S. and its territories.

Wespac's territory consists of over 1.5 million square miles of prime fishing waters stretching from the Northern Mariana Islands, south to Guam, and east across the International Dateline to the Hawaiian archipelago from Midway past the southernmost island of Hawa`i.

Wespac is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. Amended in 1996 "to prevent overfishing, minimize bycatch and protect fish stocks and habitat", it is now called the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. ***(The Western & Central Pacific Network)***

FROM

From Page 1

bilizing, so we're probably down by even less as of today," said Aguon. "If this continues—as we hope it will—we should be able to recover all of our losses by the end of the month. It doesn't look like we're going to take such a big hit after all."

Yet, he also said the Fund will continue to watch the volatile market closely.

Juan T. Guerrero, chairman of the Fund board of trustees, echoed Aguon's optimism, citing recent efforts by the U.S. federal government to intervene in the crisis.

"The federal government is trying to solve the crisis," Guerrero said. "I don't think the federal government will allow the market to just deteriorate. Our only worry is if they [U.S. politicians] make this a political thing. If that happens, we can't do anything. We're mandated by law to invest."

Richard Villagomez, investment director at the Fund, reported yesterday that the Fund's investment portfolio was worth $418.75 million in July 2008. This represents about 42 percent of the Fund's accrued liability, which amounts to $987.15 million.

The Fund's assets have been on a downslide since 2006. In that year, the central government stopped contributing to the pension program, forcing the Fund to liquidate assets to make pension payments. In fiscal year 2008, the Retirement Fund withdrew $35 million, which is approximately half of the amount needed to pay retirees.

According to an actuarial study of the pension plan, if the Fund continues to liquidate assets at this rate—while failing to collect any amount from the government—the program could go bankrupt in eight years.

In related news, the Fund board of trustees has put off its plan to replace Merrill Lynch as its investment custodian. Guerrero said the board made the decision following some disagreements with its top choice firm. The firm's proposed contract contained provisions and costs that were different from what the parties agreed upon during initial talks.

As investment custodian, Merrill Lynch supervises the Fund's nine money managers—Atalanta, Stralem, Renaissance, Nicolas-Applegate, Fisher, Templeton, Richmond, Income Research, and JP Morgan.

PULA

From Page 1

ence on Capital Hill, after vowing to devote federal resources to help fix it.

Flanked by Gov. Benigno Fitial and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña, Pula said his office plans to rally support among federal agencies and Congress to find solutions to Saipan's long-running power problems.

"The faster we get this done, the better things are for everybody," Pula said. "The No. 1 priority for my office right now in the CNMI is to focus on the power."

Pula spent this week on Saipan meeting with CUC, the governor's staff and members of the Strategic Economic Development Council, in addition to visiting local leaders on Tinian.

At the press conference, Muña detailed a long-term plan to address the power crisis that the local government is developing with federal authorities, a plan the governor is urging forward during the limited window emergency power supplied by Aggreko is available.

"I want everyone to be on board with this plan," said Fitial. "We need to find a replacement for the Aggreko generators."

Meanwhile, Pula applauded the people of the CNMI for enduring the power outages that have plagued Saipan for so long.

"I know people have been suffering," said Pula. "The power outages and the situation you have all endured, these are tough and real issues. I want to say that we really feel it. We're very concerned. We care."

Federal assistance like capital improvement plan funding, said Pula, could offer one avenue to deal with Saipan's power needs.

"I'm going to do whatever I can through the Department of the Interior, through my leaders, publicly reaching out to other agencies, to get whatever kind of assistance there is to help the CNMI," he said. "I'm really encouraged that everyone wants to fix the problem. Getting to how to fix the problem, I think that is a challenge."

A plan for solving the CNMI's power woes is taking shape, according to Muña, with CUC eying a "Guam model" for power generation in the near future that involves transferring the management of Saipan's electrical system from the government to a private company.

"Knowing the success that they've had, we expect reliability, efficiency and probably—to a certain extent—affordability," said Muña.

Now that Saipan has its emergency generators, he added, the next phase of the plan is to overhaul engines at the local power plant to stabilize Saipan's supply of electricity. Later, the government plans to seek an independent power producer who can take control of power generation on the island. Further into the future, said Muña, the CNMI will see a blend of electricity from fossil fuels along with solar and wind energy.

"So you'll have a portfolio of production that may be a mixture of fossil fuel generation and alternative energy that will translate into affordability much more than where we are right now," said Muña.

DPH

From Page 1

milk-derived ingredients that originated from China could contain the chemical melamine. Milk-derived ingredients include whole milk powder, non-fat milk powder, whey powder, lactose powder and casein.

DPH is also warning people not to eat imported milk-based sweets known as White Rabbit Creamy Candies. This product is sold in retail packs through Asian retailers, supermarkets and dairies. The British supermarket chain Tesco had removed this product off its shelves as a precaution amid reports that samples of the candy in Singapore and New Zealand had tested positive for melamine.

In Guam, the island's health department has ordered the recall of "Mr. Brown 3-in-1" instant coffee mix because traces of the chemical melamine have been found in the product.

Recent news reports have also linked King Car products from Taiwan to the melamine contamination scandal.

So far, no infant formula from China has been found for sale in the CNMI. DPH is urging all CNMI vendors to remove any items containing milk products that originated in China.

In the case of White Rabbit Creamy Candies, DPH is advising anyone who has the product not to eat it and to return it to the place of purchase or dispose of it.

"This product contains sufficiently high levels of melamine which may, in some individuals, cause health problems such as kidney stones. Currently, BEH is inspecting retail establishments throughout the CNMI to remove any product from the shelves," said the department in its advisory.

Melamine has been found in infant formula and other milk products from 22 Chinese dairy companies. Suppliers trying to cut costs are believed to have added it to watered-down milk because its high nitrogen content masks the resulting protein deficiency.

Inspection

DPH said it had initiated an environmental health inspection since last week, and health officials have been on the lookout for milk-based foods and infant formula from China. More than 70 stores have been inspected for the presence of products that might contain melamine. Additionally, a review of recent import records is underway.

The *Saipan Tribune* also did a cursory review of several store shelves and found no China-made milk.

Chinese baby formula tainted with the chemical has been blamed for the deaths of four infants and the illnesses of 53,000 others in China. Health experts say ingesting a small amount of the chemical poses no danger, but melamine can cause kidney stones and lead to kidney failure. Infants are particularly vulnerable.

There have been no cases of infant kidney stones in the CNMI as yet, DPH said. "No additional hospitalizations or clinic visits have been noted. At present, Public Health is confident that the children in the CNMI have not been affected by this problem," said the department.

FDA-approved

The CNMI has a public law that forbids the importation of food products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. All infant formulas must be approved by FDA before they are allowed for sale in the CNMI. This includes all formula available to WIC recipients as well.

"No formulas produced in China have been found in the CNMI. As a precaution, [the Bureau of Environmental Health] is working with retailers to make sure that no unapproved products from China have made their way to stores in the CNMI," the department said.

DPH said the BEH is working closely with the FDA and will continue to work closely with other foreign regulators to share information throughout the investigation.

"DPH Bureau of Environmental Health continues to collaborate with the World Health Organization and other international medical and public health partners to share information regularly on this issue. The agency continues to monitor disease trends in case they indicate exposure to melamine," it said.

King Car Products

BEH inspectors are also inspecting retail establishments for the presence of King Car items containing powdered non-dairy creamer.

DPH said it is working to ensure the safety of all King Car products, including "Mr. Brown" coffee, which might contain milk products contaminated with melamine.

King Car said in a statement issued yesterday that its canned Mr. Brown coffee drinks have consistently used milk powders from Australia or New Zealand that are free of melamine contamination.

At present, BEH has not found any of these items for sale in the CNMI.

"DPH will continue to provide regular updates as to the progress of our investigation. Although the overall risk to the general public is very minimal, DPH will continue to be vigilant in its efforts to maintain food safety in the CNMI. We will stay alert regarding this issue and continue to communicate with our regional partners and the retail owners in the CNMI to preserve the health of all CNMI residents," the department said.

Call the Bureau of Environmental Health at 664-4870 for additional questions. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

WHAT

From Page 1

increases the nitrogen content of the milk and therefore its apparent protein content.

Addition of melamine into food is not approved by the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius (food standard commission), or by any national authorities.

Has melamine been found in other food products?

In 2007, melamine was found in wheat gluten and rice protein concentrate exported from China and used in the manufacture of pet food in the United States. This caused the death of a large number of dogs and cats due to kidney failure.

In the present event, melamine contamination has been found in a number of different brands of powdered infant formula, in one brand of a frozen yogurt dessert and in one brand of canned coffee drink. All these products were most probably manufactured using ingredients made from melamine-contaminated milk.

What are the health effects of melamine consumptions in humans?

While there are no direct human studies on the effect of melamine data from animal studies can be used to predict adverse health effects. Melamine alone causes bladder stones in animal tests. When combined with cyanuric acid, which may also be present in melamine powder, melamine can form crystals that can give rise to kidney stones.

These small crystals can also block the small tubes in the kidney potentially stopping the production of urine, causing kidney failure and, in some cases, death. Melamine has also been shown to have carcinogenic effects in animals in certain circumstances, but there is insufficient evidence to make a judgment on carcinogenic risk in humans.

What are the symptoms and signs of melamine poisoning?

Irritability, blood in urine, little or no urine, signs of kidney infection, high blood pressure.

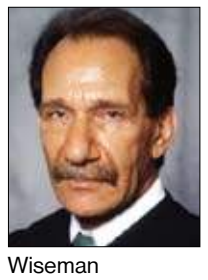
What is the treatment for kidney stones and kidney failure?

Patients may receive various types of treatment, depending on the severity of the kidney effects. Treatment may include infusion of fluids and urine alkalinisation, correction of electrolyte and acid-base disturbance, haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis, or surgical removal of kidney stones.

Source: Department of Public Health

Woman gets 30-day prison term for document fraud

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered a woman to spend 30 days in prison for filing fraudulent papers at the Department of Labor and the Division of Immigration.


Wiseman

Wiseman sentenced Anita Antolin Camacho to one year in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, with no parole.

He placed the 51-year-old Camacho on one year probation and ordered her to pay a $100 fine and $25 court assessment fee plus probation fee.

The defendant was charged with attempted unlawful employment of an alien, inducement by fraudulent misrepresentation, and conspiracy to commit inducement by fraudulent misrepresentation, and two counts of document fraud.

Camacho signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to one count of document fraud.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 17, 2008, Camacho fabricated a false employment contract for Dennis Fabian that was submitted to Labor to circumvent local labor and immigration laws.

Camacho's guilty plea may subject her to deportation proceedings. She was ordered to report to the Department of Corrections this Monday to serve her sentence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Saipan Singing Superstar Year 2: PDA Season 2 goes Saipan-style

A screen shot of the official text vote result for the Saipan Singing Superstar year 2 from the online tabulation http://www.pticom.com/sss/. Macky, with short code number 0209, garnered a total of 3,476 text votes.

The Saipan Singing Superstar Year 2 competition of Saipan Grand Hotel held its first elimination last week at the Southern Cross Bar.

Eleven contestants qualified for the grand finals in a series of competitions this October. They are: Bernie Dizon, Chelo Marie Minguito, Demalyn Sablan, DonneL Isip, G. Hernandez, Janee Babauta, Jenny Sanchez, Macky Custodio, Michele Villaraza, Rona Bautista, and Walden Beri Jr.

The criteria for judging is 20 percent text votes and 60 percent musicality. Tomorrow, Sept. 27, 2008, is critique night and the eviction night is on Oct. 4, 2008, at the Southern Cross Bar. The Top 6 winners of Batch 2 will be joined by the batch's 11 finalists and will be considered grand finalists.

The grand final series of events will highlight four performances—songs of their own choice, upbeat type of music, duet performance and a medley production number. The 16 grand finalists will do these four performances, which will comprise 60 percent of the criteria; 15 percent will be the given to each performance. Gala night will be on Oct. 12, 18, 25, and Nov. 1, 2008, Saturdays at 6pm at Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel. A Club V party follows at 9:30pm.

The remaining 40 percent of the criteria will be based on text voting, which will end at 7pm of Nov. 8, 2008, which will be the awards night of the Saipan Singing Superstar.

The Saipan Singing Superstar is the island's version of Pinoy Dream Academy Season 2—a popular reality and talent show that airs over The Filipino Channel—which had its finale last week. Laarni Lozada from Sultan Kudarat in the southern part of the Philippines, got the highest text votes and became The Pinoy Dream Academy Season 2 Grand Star Dreamer.

The gala and eviction nights of the PDA Season 2 until the Final Performance Night were shown live on Saipan via PTI and TFC at the Southern Cross Bar of the Saipan Grand Hotel every Saturday. As the show host Toni Gonzaga always says, "We are live worldwide." For the first time also in the history of text voting on Saipan, Filipinos here was able to support their scholar of choice through text votes because of PTI's partnership with ABS-CBN.

Watch out for the culminating event of the SSS season 2 and the PDA season 2 winners. ***(PR)***

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'PDO can't represent indigents in deportation cases'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public Defender's Office has no legal authority to represent indigent persons in deportation cases, according to Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday.

Wiseman ruled that without a clearer mandate, he must conclude that the PDO is not authorized by statute to appear on behalf of respondents in deportation proceedings before Commonwealth courts.

It is evident, the judge pointed out, that PDO is charged with the duties of providing subsidized legal assistance and counseling to those who are in need, but is not permitted to appear in CNMI courts on behalf of anyone except a defendant who is facing criminal charges.

Wiseman discussed the issue in his decision related to the CNMI government's deportation cases against Rodriguez Suka, Johnny Albert, and James Kintaro.

In the same order, the judge granted the Attorney General's Office's motion to quash PDO's appearance in the deportation cases against Suka, Albert, and Kintaro, who are all citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Wiseman ordered the three respondents to appear in court on Oct. 9, 2008, at 1:30pm to explain why they should not be deported.

The AGO, through assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell, had moved to prevent PDO's appearance and participation as counsel for the three respondents.

The issue was heard before Wiseman on Aug. 28, 2008. Assistant public defender Richard Miller attempted to enter an appearance on behalf of the respondents.

PDO claimed that the AGO lacks standing to pursue its objection of PDO's entry of appearance. PDO asserted that AGO has no stake or interest in whether or not the PDO helps the defendants.

In his order, Wiseman said that, given the broad constitutional mandate of the AGO to represent the Commonwealth in all legal matters, it is not unreasonable to interpret the AGO's general mandate as to ensure the law of the Commonwealth is properly implemented.

Wiseman said such an interest in ensuring that the law is followed and that agencies exercise only that power conferred to them by statute or constitutional law is sufficient to establish a stake in the outcome of this case and standing for the AGO.

Warfield: Miura is being forced out

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura is being forced out of collaborating with his lawyers on strategy, tactics and overall decision making, according to assistant attorney general Jeffery L. Warfield Sr. yesterday.

Warfield said the 61-year-old Miura is being stripped of the authority exercised by all clients in dealing with their attorneys—the authority to make the final decision in a face-to-face relationship with his lawyer.

"Maintaining Miura in the CNMI is a great disservice to him, whether he realizes it or not," said the prosecutor in response to another motion to stay Miura's extradition order.

"The balance of hardship tips solely to the Commonwealth, which has been forced to feed, house and guard this California prisoner," Warfield said.

On Wednesday, one of Miura's lawyers, Bruce Berline, filed an emergency motion asking the CNMI Supreme Court to stay Miura's extradition or his removal from Saipan to California while he pursues further proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Berline said if the CNMI High Court does not grant a stay of extradition, their client could be extradited at any time and thus forever lose his right to appeal those issues.

But in the CNMI government's opposition to the emergency motion, Warfield said the motion should be summarily denied as Miura cannot show any probability of success on the merits.

Warfield said Miura's only hope of any kind of success in meeting the charges against him are in the hearings being held in California.

Miura's extradition is to his benefit and causes no injury, Warfield said.

"In reality the cognizable hardship to petitioner is that his being maintained in the CNMI is depriving him of the opportunity to meaningfully interact with his real attorney, the one presenting his affirmative defense without being afforded the input and thinking of his client," he said.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSEPH B. SONGSONG and MARIA M. SONGSONG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 2, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 2, 1982, under Document No. 14220 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Sadog Tasi and hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on July 1, 2005. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $32,530.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $32,530.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to Wednesday October 1, 2008 at 6:00 pm, CRM Conference Room, 1st floor of the Morgen Building, San Jose. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings
1. 2008-1474 V. Benavente Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
1. 2008-0908 A. Vekhov, preliminary plat, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
2. 2008-1197 Jesus G. Villagomez final plat, lot H34NEW
3. 2008-1474 V. Benavente Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat
F. Old Business
1. Review and approve amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
   a. Map 14. Rezone RU to VC various lots
   b. Map 19. Rezone VR to VC various lots
   c. Map 23. Rezone VR to VC, Lot 6-1, File 2008-1311
   d. Map 26. Rezone VR to MC, Lots 032 K 07 & 08, File 2008-1218
   e. Map 27. Rezone VR to VC various lots
G. New Business.
1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

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Bordallo: National wildlife refuge system at risk

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Just five short years after the Bush Administration celebrated the centennial of America's National Wildlife Refuge System, calling its future bright, the administration is instead allowing the system to die a slow death by drastically cutting the budget and the workforce for refuges across the country, according to Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans chair Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU).

Citing a new Government Accountability Office report released yesterday, Bordallo said the administration is endangering the future of the only system of federal lands devoted exclusively to wildlife conservation.

"It appears that insufficient funding has had a ripple effect across the Refuge System, forcing the Fish and Wildlife Service to further scale back operations at many refuges, or even close refuges to public use altogether," said Bordallo. "Perhaps most disturbing is law enforcement operations are woefully inadequate to cover a system of public lands that includes some of the most rugged and isolated terrain in the United States."

Bordallo, Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), co-founder of the National Wildlife Refuge Caucus, and Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, requested the GAO investigation last year in response to concerns about the Refuge System's growing operations and maintenance budget backlogs.

The GAO found that between 2003 and 2007, habitat management and visitor services at some of the 585 refuges comprising the National Wildlife Refuge System suffered as regional offices cut staff and prioritized facility maintenance to accommodate dwindling annual budgets. Up to 20 percent of fish and wildlife habitats were in poor condition in 2007 and environmental education and interpretation, two key visitor service programs, were considered poor quality at one-third of refuges, according to staff surveys analyzed by GAO.

Funding and staffing shortfalls were exacerbated by new challenges posed by external factors such as climate change, invasive species, drought, and habitat fragmentation. The report also emphasized threats to public safety, highlighting that an additional 200 officers are needed just to reach the minimum necessary to adequately protect refuge resources and visitors.

The GAO concludes that it will be difficult for the Refuge System to continue to fulfill its statutory mission and objectives unless additional attention and resources are devoted to the System. Another report issued in June by Management Systems International mirrored GAO's findings, giving the System a mediocre overall grade.

"For years I have heard from the refuge managers and friends groups in my district the devastating effects insufficient budgets have had on refuges at home and across the country," said Kind. "By documenting on a national scale the effects of years of underfunding, I hope these two reports will help provide a blueprint for moving the Refuge System forward, and generate the urgency and support in Congress to do so." ***(PR)***

Local toddler selected to take part in nat'l children's pageant

Mariaissabela Josephina Camacho has been chosen to participate in the Pretty Little Princess Pageant. The pageant will be held on Nov. 2, 2008, at the Marriott Hotel in Addison, Texas.

Mariaissabela was born on Nov. 9, 2006, in Dallas, Texas to Juanita "Piola" Camacho. Her maternal grandparents were the late Antonio T And Maria B Camacho.

The Starfire Pageant has been delighting hearts of little girls all across America since 1993. They take pride in the beautiful pageant that they produce. The Pretty Little Princess Pageant is unique in that it does not allow the participants to be overdressed or wear any make up. This makes it possible for the children involved to enjoy the pageant, yet allow them to have fun. ***(PR)***

Mariaissabela Josephina Camacho smiles for the camera.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2 NMI volunteers aid in Texas relief efforts

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross sent two of its Disaster Services Volunteers to Texas to assist with the relief efforts caused by Hurricane Ike.

Joe Race, a local writer, and Anna Ludwick, a retired teacher, both left for Texas Saturday, Sept. 20, for a three-week assignment.

Since arriving, Race has been working with shelters on feeding people that had to evacuate from their homes. He said they are now on their way to Galveston, Texas, where Hurricane Ike hit the hardest.

Aside from having to live in tents for the next couple of weeks, Race and Ludwick will join the many other volunteers who will be without electricity and running water.

Despite the living conditions, Race and Ludwick remain very positive. Race said that working with other motivated volunteers keeps him going everyday.

The American Red Cross has served over two million meals and snacks to those affected by Hurricane Ike.

Throughout the month of September, the NMI Chapter of the Red Cross will be giving public presentations on disaster preparedness. The Red Cross encourages the public to make a plan, build a kit and be informed.

Red Cross disaster volunteers Christie Sablan-Keptot encourages families to make the disaster preparedness a family event and to get children involved in the process. ***(ARC)***

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Chamorro conference begins today

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 3rd annual Chamorro Conference begins today at Saipan World Resort with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in attendance.

This is the first time Saipan has hosted the event. Guam hosted the first conference and Rota hosted the second.

On Saturday, Guam Gov. Felix Camacho will help plant a tree at the Man'amko Center to go along with the conference.

Office on Aging director Howard Macaranas, who is one of the organizers of the event, earlier said the Chamorro language needs to be protected, not just preserved.

"To preserve is to just have it there," Macaranas said. The language needs to be used regularly so it is not lost, he added.

"If we don't do something now and make people realize we need to do something, we might not have it," Macaranas said.

He said many people are aware the language is fading but are not doing anything to fix it.

"Everybody knows it's a future problem, but it's just in the back of their minds," he said. "Even me, when I was younger, I didn't care if I spoke Chamorro."

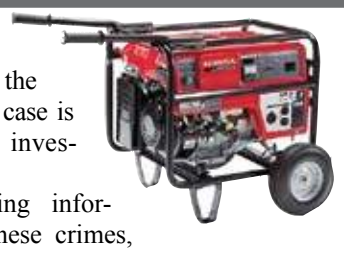
Some people speak English because it is convenient, while others are ashamed to speak Chamorro, he said.

"We have to take all those things and tell people there is nothing wrong" with speaking the language, he added.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Theft of generator

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on any of the person(s) responsible for the theft of a 8,950 watt, Coleman/Honda generator. According to police, the generator is described as black with red trimmings and has a running wattage of 6,500. The theft incident was reported to police on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at 3:04 p.m. The generator was stolen from the garage of a residence, located behind H-Mart in Dan Dan Village. It was last seen at 10:00 a.m. on the same date. This case is pending further investigation.



Here is a photo of a similar model of the stolen generator.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. *(NMI Crime Stoppers)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 26, 2000

FY 2001 budget faces new delay
The FY 2001 budget faces yet another delay as the Senate does not anticipate to approve it in time for the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, according to the chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, Sen. Edward U. Maratita. But he said senators will press for a bicameral conference committee with the House of Representatives to hammer out a compromise on the spending proposal.

Australian carrier eyes Sydney-Saipan flight
An Australia-based airline company has started concrete efforts to secure a permit from the United States Department of Transportation that will allow the carrier to deploy direct flights between Sydney and Saipan. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios disclosed Oceania Air Incorporated has been in constant communication with the Commonwealth Ports Authority since early this year, when the airline company expressed intentions to fly between Sydney and Saipan.

Ayuda Network: Reject bill easing gun control
The Ayuda Network, an alliance of Northern Marianas human and social service providers, has urged lawmakers to throw out a legislation that seeks to ease laws on gun control in fear that it would result to proliferation of crimes in CNMI. The 27-member group representing various private and public agencies wrote last week to the Senate expressing unified opposition to the legislation which lawmakers hope would lure developers into the Commonwealth by offering alternative forms of recreation through shooting practices and target ranges.

September 26, 2001

Vaccine shortage grips public hospital
The local public hospital is one among many US health care providers affected by the entire nation's overwhelming demand for tetanus and pneumococcal disease vaccines, according to the Department of Public Health. The Commonwealth Health Center has reportedly ran out of pneumococcal disease shots and is now close to disposing its limited stock of tetanus vaccines, due to insufficient supply obtained directly from the mainland-based manufacturer.

Senate to pass $233M budget
The Senate expects to pass the $233-million Fiscal Year 2002 budget during Thursday's session in Tinian, with a provision that would grant the Governor some flexibility should there be any shortfall in the revenue the government expects to generate next year. At the same time, the Senate leadership assured that they will act swiftly on the House bill that would give 100 percent of the aviation fuel tax to the Marianas Visitors Authority as a supplemental promotional budget.

OPA strengthens ties with Interior
To strengthen the CNMI's viability as a recipient of federal grants, the Office of the Public Auditor is now working with the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior to clean up the CNMI's record on how it manages federal grants. Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said that, during his meeting with Inspector General Earl Devaney of the Department of the Interior in Washington D.C., they have agreed to update the semi-annual audit recommendations tracking report of the Inspector General to purge it of recommendations that are no longer implementable.

September 26, 2002

October is month for youths
Lt. Governor Diego T. Benavente has declared October as the First CNMI Youth Month in recognition of young people's positive contribution to the community. Benavente led the proclamation signing yesterday at the Youth Services Building on Capitol Hill, designating October 2002 as the First Annual CNMI Youth Month.

Preparedness demo awes students
It was about 8:45am yesterday when students and teachers at the Mt. Carmel School in Chalan Kanoa heard the fire alarm. This prompted them to rush from the buildings to the school grounds. Using their respective escape routes, all converged at the baseball field within the school's premises, where emergency response teams were already present, together with their vehicles and sophisticated equipment.

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Men's Timberland S/S Tee Shirts
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Ladies Baby Phat JR Tees Assorted
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Ladies Wrangler Jeans Slim Fit
$12.99

Boy's Cherkokee Boys S/S Shirts
$6.99

Girl's Round Neck Top
$4.79

Girl's Microfiber Tight Assorted
$1.99

Infant's Overall with Shirt Assorted Colors
$1.39

Infant's Vest Assorted Colors
$1.39

Lander Baby Shampoo 15oz.
$1.59 ea.

Dr. Fresh Dental Floss
$1.49

Lander Bubble Bath 25oz.
$1.59 ea.

Nordic Ware Angel Cake Pan
$10.99

John Frieda Shampoo or Conditioner 8.95oz.
$4.99

Padded Moon Chair
$23.99

3 Pc. Bath Room Set
$18.99

Door Mat
$6.99

Plastic Bag Saver
$3.99

Easy Hamper
$5.99

Oster 12 Speed Blender
$48.99

Proctor Silex Auto Electric Kettle 1 Ltr.
$16.99

Proctor Silex Meal Maker
$21.99

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Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
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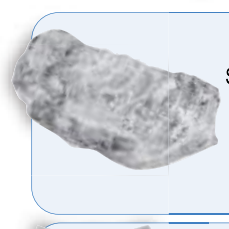

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$18.99 /cs.

New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$4.99 /ea.

Diamond G. Calrose Rice 50lbs.
$32.99 /bg.

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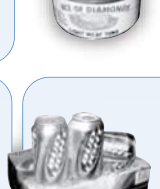
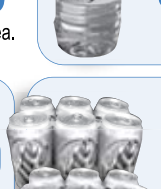
99¢ /ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$5.09 /cs.

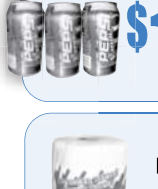
COKE/Pesi Products 24/12oz. (Limit 6)
$12.98 /cs.



Bud Family Beer Can
$24.50 /cs.
$12.25 12pk.



Miller Family Beer Can
$24.50 /cs.
$12.25 12pk.



So-Dri Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.15

Zee Napkins 360 ct. (Limit 1)
$3.99

Purex Ultra Concentrated Laundry Detergent. 5oz. Any Scent
$4.49 /ea.

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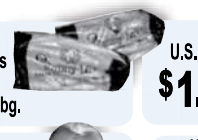
U.S. Produce

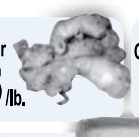
Look for these and more throughout our store!

U.S. Baby Carrots
$1.45 bg.

U.S. Brown Potatoes
$1.05 lb.



U.S. Cello Carrots
79¢ bg.



U.S. Ginger
$1.35 /lb.

U.S. Green Cabbage
75¢ /lb.

U.S. Cauliflower
$1.15 lb.

U.S. Garlic
$1.15 lb.

U.S. Fuji Apples
$1.69 lb.

U.S. Extra Large Eggs 1 Dzn
$2.79 dz.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 270

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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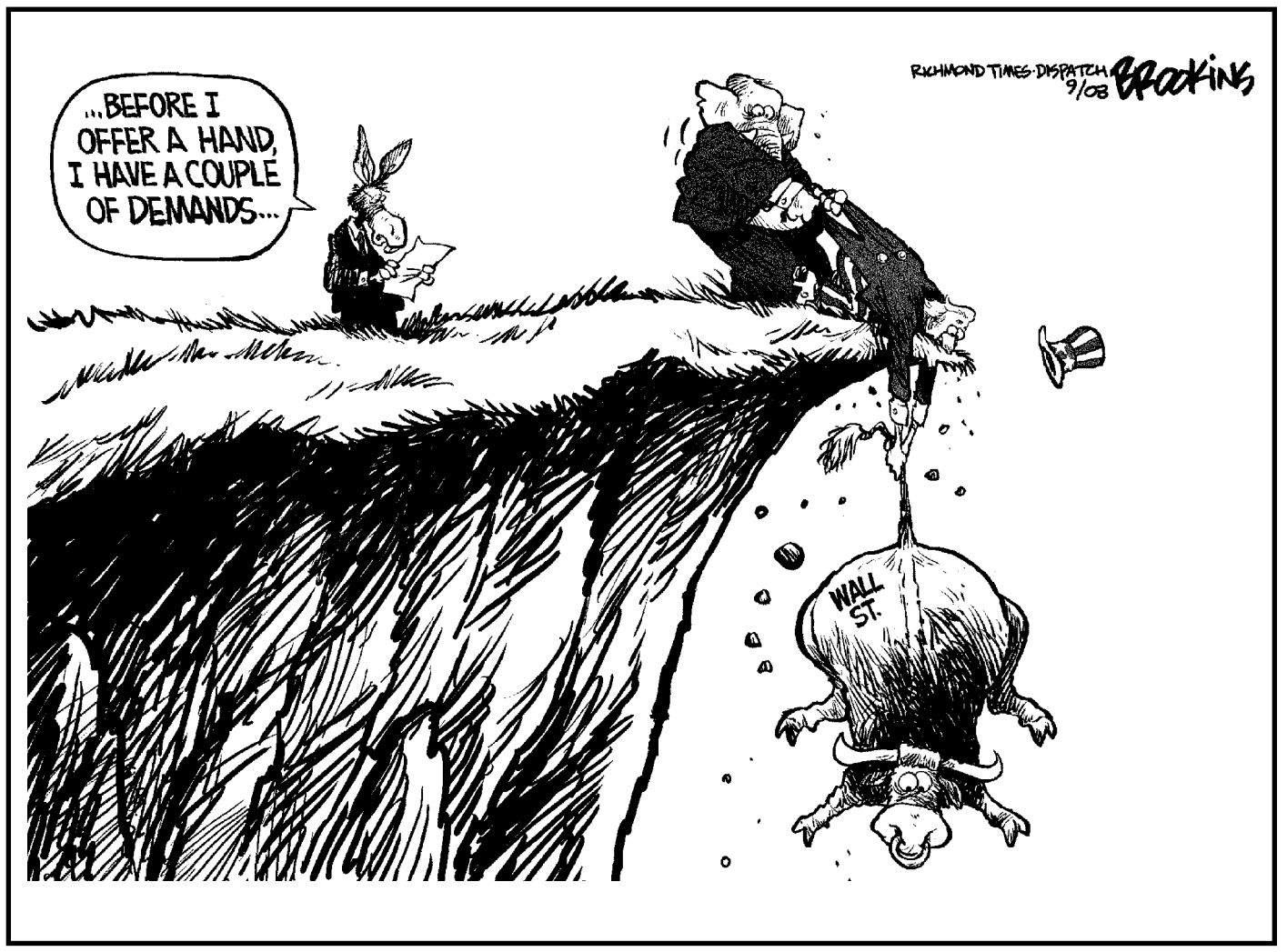

In Their Own Words

What are you going to do and how are you going to get it done if elected?

The following are the responses of the Delegate candidates to questions posed by American government teacher Ambrose Bennett. The questions were posed to all nine Delegate candidates. This week, only three submitted their responses by the deadline. The questions and the candidates' responses will run as a continuing series.

By JOHN OLIVER GONZALES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

1. Objective: Restore lasting trust and respect in our valued and enduring relationship with the United States Government

Strategy: Bring the CNMI into Congress by educating Congressional members and staffers about who we are as Americans here, our historical and political ties to the US, and articulating our social and economic crises and what we need as Americans

Methodology: Meet with leadership of Congress and with as many Congressional members and staffers as realistically as possible within the 2 year term

2. Objective: Optimize our strategic membership within Congress in order to obtain as much federal monetary and technical assistance to stabilize our deteriorating infrastructure and economy

Strategy: "Know and understand each other so they can help us" alleviate much social and economic burdens faced by our people, visitors, and business community

Methodology: Immediately establish and foster strategic alliance with key leadership of the incoming Congress; secure membership in key committees;

3. Objective: Ensure protection of competitive economic tools provided in our Covenant to revitalize our ailing economy;

Strategy: Collaborate with CNMI agencies, US GAO, and US Census Bureau to compile the most comprehensive social, health, employment, education, and economic data possible to justify protection of competitive economic tools necessary to revitalize our unique island economy;

Methodology: Work with OIA, INS, and Homeland Security, in consultation with our CNMI people, to draft regulations that balance the protection of our national security, while achieving optimum benefits for CNMI US citizens, including a revitalized economy through continued hard-to-fill skilled labor pool and reasonable controls over visitor and investor permits ;

4. Objective: Lobby the US Military to directly invest in Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Northern Islands, thus revitalize our economy, and improve our public utility, roads, water, wastewater systems, and seaports for use by military personnel and our people in anticipation of the military buildup in our region.

Strategy: Have the CNMI declared a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (**HUBzone**) and rural area so our businesses can qualify for technical, grants, and economic stimulus assistance and be included in US SBA registry of contractors to participate in military buildup economic activities.

Methodology: Work with the US DOE, Department of Commerce, US EDA, US SBA, US DOI in partnership with CNMI related agencies to explore interagency agreements and to mobilize their resources and technical assistance to build CNMI local capacity and workforce training for targeted civilian jobs in preparation of military buildup; tap the extensive network of the US Chamber of Commerce and major American companies to consider investing in the CNMI;

5. Objective: Ascertain the feasibility of building new power plants with integrated alternative energy aimed at ensuring a sustainable, efficient, and affordable public power supply.

Strategy: Work with US Energy Department and Rural Electrification to redefine the CNMI as "rural" so we can qualify for millions of immediate infrastructure assessment grants, tap their resources and expertise, and lobby to obtain millions in rural electrification construction grants to build new power plants integrated with alternative energy .

Methodology: Work with US DOI and US Army Corps of Engineers to assist us in our immediate public power crisis, including immediate and long term funding for expert assessment of our public power systems and construction of a sustainable, efficient, and affordable public power utility.

6. Objective: Prioritize the feasibility of tapping millions more of new federal grants for which US citizens in the CNMI qualify for through our unique Covenant and our membership with the United States.

Strategy No. 1: Hire adequate staff highly knowledgeable and trained in the research and application of millions of dollars in grants in the federal registry system and private endowments;

Strategy No. 2: Collaborate with CNMI agencies, US GAO, and US Census Bureau to compile the most comprehensive social, health, employment, education, and economic data possible to ensure solid justification to access millions more in grants.

Methodology: Work with CNMI agencies and CNMI NGOs to coordinate inventory of existing programs, articulate additional needed programs, and secure formal entity interests to apply and access additional millions to augment existing and/or obtain new monies never before tapped, but which we have been and continue to be unequivocally qualified for anyway.

7. Objective: Lobby for millions more of federal grants to upgrade our hospitals in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan with cutting edge medical equipment and medical specialists and professionals to care for our people and veterans and gradually phase out the high costs and unsound management practices of the CNMI medical referral program.

Strategy: Work with CNMI DPH, Rota Health Center, Tinian Health Center, allied health and private clinics stakeholders to ascertain state of our public health system, compile necessary data to apply for grants and/or lobby for funding, and follow grant requirements.

Methodology: Work with US DHHS and related agencies to redefine the CNMI as "rural" so we can qualify for millions more of alternate and additional grants, negotiate mutually beneficial agreements to access medical specialists and equipment

See IN THEIR on Next Page

EDITORIAL

Speaks volumes

Among those threatened by immigration—legal and illegal—it is an article of faith that vast numbers of new arrivals are fracturing American traditions, recalibrating our values and undermining our language. Spanish spoken on the streets of L.A. is, to those inclined to see it that way, evidence of something essential slipping out of our culture, or of a scary kind of reverse assimilation. Instead of becoming more like Americans, the fear is that immigrants are trying to absorb parts of this country into Latin America.

Those are understandable worries, though often inflamed by irresponsible partisans who capitalize on them to advance their nativist agenda. Happily, a new report by the Census Bureau does much to put those fears in perspective. Drawing on its 2007 American Community Survey, the bureau concludes that the number of native Spanish speakers who declare themselves fluent in English is notably on the rise—just over 51 percent in 2007, compared with just under 47 percent in 2000. Also rising is the percentage of foreign-born residents who have sought and received citizenship. Those findings echo earlier studies, including a 2007 analysis by the Pew Hispanic Center, demonstrating the rapidly growing English skills of second-generation Americans. It found that although only 23 percent of immigrants were fluent in English, 88 percent of their children had mastered the language. By the third generation, it was 94 percent.

Those gains suggest the enthusiasm of these new arrivals for their adopted country and argue for their absorption, not their demonization. Granted, these percentages lump legal and illegal immigrants together, and evidence suggests that those here illegally are less likely to master the language. Border control and a sputtering U.S. economy have done much to deter illegal immigration over the last several years, and may be contributing marginally to the increased fluency of the immigrant population that remains.

But that's an argument for legalizing families, not for imagining them as a threat to our cohesion. American culture grows and adapts as new immigrants redefine it over the generations, and the same can be said of the English language. We should embrace that evolution, not hold it at bay with false and alarmist arguments about the threat to American values.

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IN THEIR

From Page 10

8. Objective: Clean up remaining public and private lands from UXOs and chemical contaminants and clear regulatory wildlife issues to open up new homestead subdivisions in Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Northern Islands.

Strategy: Work with CNMI DEQ, CRM, HPO, DFW, DLNR, and DPL to undertake inventory of areas affected and coordinate protocol necessary.

Methodology: Work with US EPA, US DOI, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US DHHS, Department of Defense, and Lobby Congress for millions more in federal funds.

9. Objective: Provide jobs for our people and establish home mail delivery service.

Strategy: Qualified locals will obtain high paying federal jobs and all our residents in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan will get their mail outside their homes.

Methodology: Meet with US Post Master General to lobby and implement this longstanding convenient home mail delivery service for the benefit of our people.

10. Objective: Lobby to have the CNMI included in the proclamation of emergencies under which the federal government assists local disaster areas, including low-cost loans.

Strategy: Work to have the CNMI defined as a "rural" area; Comprehensive data collection in all technical areas must be compiled by CNMI agencies in order to qualify to be declared an emergency disaster.

Methodology: Work with Congress, White House arm charged with insular areas, US DOI and other federal agencies to explore feasibility of obtaining emergency financial assistance where necessary and as deemed necessary.

By PETE A. TENORIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pedro A. Tenorio is the CNMI Resident Representative to Washington D.C.

I want to thank the editors of *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* as well as Mr. Ambrose Bennett for providing this opportunity to the candidates for Congressional Delegate. This is an historic and serious election. Not only are we electing a representative to Congress for the first time, but there are many important issues facing the CNMI that will challenge our first Delegate. It is my hope that our voters examine each candidate carefully and make their decision on who to vote based on the candidate's experience, record of leadership and accomplishments and ability to effectively pursue issues in Congress.

Each candidate has been asked to answer two questions 'What are we going to do and how are we going to get it done?' I wish to start with 'How are you going to get it done?'

As your Resident Representative, I have been committed to work closely with our elected leaders, listening to all of my constituents and representing them as best I can. My motto will always be "working for and with you." If elected I will continue to maintain direct and open communication with the Governor, Legislature and our people, and will visit the CNMI as often as the congressional schedule will permit, so that I may listen first hand and update myself on the needs of the people. We are living through very difficult times and I will continue to strive for a balanced and fair approach consistent with our Covenant.

My seven years in Washington have taught me many things and more importantly have enabled me to build strong personal and professional relationships and to establish lines of communication with many Republican and Democratic members of Congress. These relationships, together with a strong bi-partisan spirit are mandatory for Congress to address CNMI's problems.

Delegates Bordallo, Christensen, Faleomavaega, and Fortuño are close personal friends and together we have succeeded in including the territories in economic stimulus packages, have increased compact impact and Medicaid funding and the child tax credit, and have also increased access to federal grant programs. I have worked with many other members of Congress from both parties including, to name a few: Jeff Flake (AZ), Nick Rahall (WV), Elton Gallegly (CA), John Boehner (OH), Tom Cole (OK), Dennis Rehberg (MT), Dennis Cardoza (CA), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Jeff Bingaman (NM), Daniel Akaka, Daniel Inouye, and Neil Abercrombie (HI). I have worked with congressional leaders from both parties and Secretaries of many federal agencies and feel confident that as your Delegate I can bring any CNMI issue to the highest levels of power in the nation.

Introducing legislation is easy, but making sure that the bill gets a hearing, a committee vote and floor action takes a lot of work, cooperation and relationships. As the Republican candidate with strong national party ties, I am confident that, even as a freshman, my party will nominate me to two standing committees. The committees are where the work gets done, where decisions are made on which piece of legislation is worthy of consideration and which will be acted on. To pass a law requires both the support of your party to get the bill to the House or Senate floor and bi-partisan support to get enough votes for passage.

With regards to the question "What are you going to do? With great confidence I feel that in my first term I can accomplish many of the following as well as establish a solid foundation to address the remainder:

■ Restore annual CIP funding to the $27.7 million level. This funding will provide reliable and affordable power; modernize health centers and schools; improve our water, and wastewater; provide for recreational areas and tourist attractions.

■ Enact CNMI's submerged land grant commensurate with other territories and coastal states and provide economic benefits from minerals and other resources within the EEZ.

■ Amend existing Endangered Species laws that are currently preventing economic development on Rota and Saipan.

■ Increase social services funding for Medicaid, food stamps, and programs for persons with disabilities and the *man'amko*.

■ Pursue additional funding for power generation and ensure that the CNMI is included in all programs that fund alternative energy sources.

■ Secure a permanent military presence that yields economic benefits for the CNMI in the Guam military buildup that will ensure sustained economic activity, provide funding for harbor repair and infrastructure development on Tinian, and promote the CNMI especially Rota as approved R&R destination.

■ Increase benefits to eligible veterans in the CNMI including a VA clinic on Saipan, expanding GI educational benefits, and continuing and expanding the Troops to Teachers Program.

■ Fund the development of measurement tools to accurately assess and describe economic conditions in the CNMI.

■ Ensure that federal immigration is implemented responsibly, positively, and fairly, supporting the needs of the business community, respecting the Chamorro and Carolinian peoples, and recognizing the role of the nonresidents.

■ Secure the future for our youth through local hire preferences, federally funded vocational training programs, and job development programs.

■ Expand tourism markets by demanding greater consideration in US bilateral talks with foreign countries regarding air service and supporting MVA and the visitor industry in exploring new tourist markets and expanding current ones.

■ Collaborate with all relative federal agencies to develop immediate and long range plans on the diversification of the CNMI economy.

■ Expand access to federal grant funding for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College by eliminating barriers to eligibility, increasing existing grant programs, and establishing new grant programs with an emphasis on insular areas.

■ Expand access to needed funding for port and harbor projects in Transportation and Infrastructure reauthorizations and eliminating matching funds barriers.

■ Bring health care into the 21st Century by removing barriers to the recruitment and retention of health care professionals, increasing funding for prevention and wellness programs, and seeking funding for adequate volcano monitoring to protect the public's health.

■ Expand benefits and support for the expansion and marketing of fishing and farming products.

By CHONG MAN WON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

As your candidate, my platform is pretty simple. I want reliable, affordable power as well as clean, drinking water that most communities in the United States take for granted. Without these basic necessities, how can we improve our economy? How can we expect to bring back our bright young adults, let alone keep the ones we have? How can we attract new businesses, let alone keep the ones we have? How can our only industry, tourism, flourish? With our power problems, what kinds of the images were left on the tourists' minds? The money spent to promote our islands was simply negated. Therefore, how do we expect to revive the economy if we are losing our people, businesses and tourists? The simple answer is we cannot. So what are we to do? Fix the problem. How? The only way to fix our problem is to be open-minded, make responsible decisions and be accountable for our actions. If we continue to make hasty decisions motivated by self-interest, we will never move forward. However, if we put the interest of the people first, we will not fail. Take CUC for example, what are its major problems? Do we agree with mismanagement, funding issues, high cost of fuel as well as no accountability? If so, how do we fix it? By taking the politics out of it. By placing the most qualified people to manage it. By tapping into federal funds to replace or overhaul these generators in addition to research, development and deployment of renewable energy. Federal programs and assistances are available but unfortunately we are not making use of them. These are not handouts. Many other places are taking advantage of them so why not us? These federal programs have guidelines and benchmarks thereby holding people accountable.

Renewable energy is not new and the federal government is leaning more and more toward it to become less dependent on foreign oil. With this policy shift, we should make use of every available programs and funding. For example, The Energy Independence and Security Act increases appropriations for renewable energy under research and development. It awards competitive National Energy Training Partnerships Grants to enable certain entities to implement training that leads to economic self-sufficiency (Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Program) and develops energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 or the 2008 Farm Bill is another example. Under the Rural Development Title, $120 million is provided for critical water and wastewater projects in rural area, $15 million for Value-Added Agriculture Product Market Development Grant programs. Under the Horticulture and Organic Agriculture Title, the Farmers' Market Promotion Program provides competitive grants to improve and expand farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. It provides $377 million over 10 years for pest and disease detection and control. Could the CNMI establish a new industry in renewable energy that could contribute economically? Wind energy has contributed to the economy by fees paid to landowners, creation of new businesses and new jobs. Could we have programs to educate our young scholars to be experts in renewable energy? Renewable energy will not totally replace our current power generation but with proper planning, renewable energy could play a vital role in reducing our dependence on fossil fuel, lowering our electric rates and even possibly lead us to economic self-sufficiency.

Whether we like it or not, the federalization is set to happen on June 1, 2009. Even with the lawsuit, we need to be prepared. There are talks that the proposed regulations will be out for public comment by November or December of this year. We should right now be actively participating in the drafting of the regulations to ensure our interests are protected. That we have access to our entire tourism markets, especially the Russian and Chinese. Although we currently do not have a large retirees market, we should make sure that this opportunity is not closed. With improved health care and health care facilities, this market has potential. The edu-tourism market is beginning to develop and the proximity to Asian countries has made the CNMI an ideal location for foreign students.

As your representative, I will see to it that the CNMI receives as much funding as possible whether it's for renewable energy, education, public health care or public safety. To accomplish this, I will hire the best-qualified people to assist me. I will work to improve our relationship with the federal government by taking the straightforward and honest approach. I believe that the other members of Congress will appreciate this approach. Most importantly, we will have credibility.

Honestly, I don't have all the answers but if I don't know, I will find out. I make no promises as to jobs or favors but I do promise to work for *you*. Two years is very short to accomplish many things. That's why we must be focused on a few and actively pursue them. If we try to do too many within this time, we are bound to accomplish nothing leaving us no better off then we are now.

I'd like to close by saying, "Some say he lacks experience" but I say experience doesn't guarantee success. Look at where experience has led us. Lack of experience can be a good thing because it makes us ask "why" and "how" instead of "It won't work" and "I know better." It can motivate us and motivation leads to hard work and hard work leads to success. Some say "he's an outsider" but I say my wife is local; my kids are local so how can I be an outsider? Please don't judge me for what I am but who I am: a husband, a father, your friend, your neighbor who is willing to make a difference for the betterment of the CNMI. Come this Nov. 4, I humbly ask for your vote of confidence.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

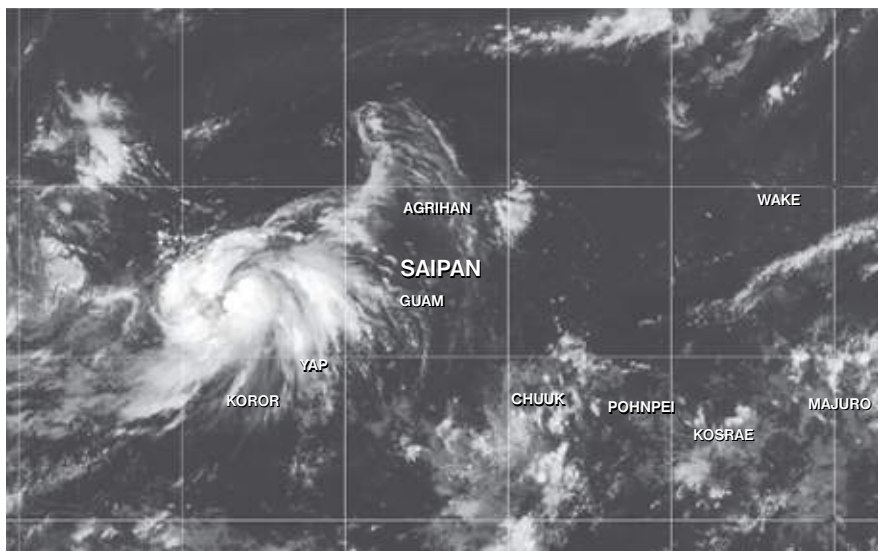
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼71
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼50
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼45
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲79	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲78	▼56
Miami	Sunny	▲87	▼74
New York	Rain	▲65	▼58
Osaka	Rain	▲75	▼60
Paris	Sunny	▲64	▼46
Pusan	Showers	▲72	▼50
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼47
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼45
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲61	▼44
Tokyo	Showers	▲74	▼61
Washington, DC	Rain	▲67	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Jangmi (19W) is centered northwest of Yap near 13N136E moving west-northwest at 12 mph with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 150 miles of the center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend farther out in an area bounded by a line from 8N130E to 14N130E to 17N138E to 10N140E back to 8N130E. An upper-level low is currently centered at 22N140E. Upper-level divergence south of the low is combining with trade-wind convergence to generate scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just west of the Marianas in an area bounded by a line from 10N140E to 17N138E to 19N144E to 12N144E back to 10N140E. A surface trough meanders northeastward from EQ148E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei at 7N155E then eastward to end at 10N180. Winds converging near the trough are producing extensive cloudiness along with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in an area that includes Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states as well as the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This area is bounded by a line from 10N152E to 10N180 to 6N180 to EQ173E to 4N160E to EQ148E back to 10N152E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:17AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:26AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:17PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:06AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:07AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	6:07AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:04AM	3:59PM
Saturday	3:59AM	4:39PM
Sunday	4:52AM	5:16PM
Monday	5:43AM	5:53PM
Tuesday	6:33AM	6:31PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Random ruminations

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Result Non-Delegates' Forum

Candidates vying for the non-voting delegate's post this November had the opportunity to show their stuff at a forum sponsored by the Kagman Community. Only a few had the courage to speak their minds on issues of substance. Most others docked behind the fantasyland of ambiguity to avoid real scrutiny.

Yes, I am pleasantly surprised at the view expressed by Mr. John Davis discouraging more handouts from Uncle Sam. Perhaps my pleasure is founded on the fact that I am issue-oriented. The federalization issue is a sure ticket to making every Tom, Dick and Harry here totally dependent on handouts from Uncle Sam. Whatever happened to personal dignity?

Definitely, I support the view that a non-voting delegate must be capable of understanding substantive issues, know with clarity the sentiments of his people and capable of articulating them in Washington's heavy political jungle fighting. But this must begin with clarity of understanding of the nature of the Covenant Agreement, especially as it relates to indigenous rights to self-government. If this issue isn't anywhere near your heart, it's time to throw out the baby and the bathtub, too.

You don't need a bag of tricks; just a real commitment to protecting the rights of our people to be self-governing as guaranteed to the Commonwealth under the Agreement. The federal government's agenda is obvious: suffocate what's left of the economy as to eventually rob the CNMI of its economic future. It isn't anything new and they'd do anything to ruin what's ours until every wave in our waters falls under the Department of Homeland Security. Be that as it may, I will speak with dignity on any substantive issues affecting the livelihood of our people.

Democracy is the best form of government, but the most difficult to see through given the differing views of citizenry on most major issues. But where our fate matters, we all must put aside what divides us and come together into a single page and do what is right for posterity. Isn't this the prime reason we're here on their behalf?

Indigenous Rights Group

Anyone is free to hurl unfounded information about this group. Perhaps our dissenting and imbecile friends have run out of tricks to sustain relevancy or make it to the pages of the newspapers. And not when this certain "other" group has dilly-dallied with bigotry. Excuse me, it isn't my cup of tea and it shows your character in full view that leaves much to be desired. But go ahead and keep raging and ranting, especially on breezeless days.

Definitely, I support the view that a non-voting delegate must be capable of understanding substantive issues, know with clarity the sentiments of his people and capable of articulating them in Washington's heavy political jungle fighting. But this must begin with clarity of understanding of the nature of the Covenant Agreement, especially as it relates to indigenous rights to self-government. If this issue isn't anywhere near your heart, it's time to throw out the baby and the bathtub, too.

I joined this group transcending my personal political persuasion in that there's a lot of serious issues to undertake to assist our people see brighter days ahead. It includes non-political matters such as education, health, cultural traditions, and first family home, among others. A lot of exploratory research work awaits this group so accusations of being political are but nonsense, solely the purview of people embracing immaturity as their hard-earned trophy. Perhaps our "other" friends need to find out which grocery store sells special toothpaste to rid their filthy mouth of that very unpleasant morning odor.

National Financial Bailout

The U.S. Congress has until Saturday (our time) to approve or disapprove the request by President Bush for a $700 billion bailout for the financial sector on Wall Street. It's a difficult feat trying to sift through the package in hopes of rescuing financing companies on Wall Street without unduly burdening the taxpayers out on Main Street.

What I find very thought provoking in this debate is the question raised by conservatives: If we grant the $700 billion rescue package, would there be an economy capable of generating revenues to repay what's given bankrupt financing companies? Would the rescue package include paying CEOs (who made millions while simultaneously driving their companies to the ground) as gratis? Would the U.S. Congress buy into providing subsidies to these CEOs—sort of food stamps coupons—for running their companies into total bankruptcy?

Bush's top financial gurus are saying time is of the essence. Well, they must show conservatives better financial recovery plans over iffy words in U.S. congressional hearings. I know that Wall Street's financing firms serve as the engine of the economy. But isn't there an equally large company who worked diligently to get itself out of the financial mess without a rescues package from Uncle Sam? Shouldn't its rebound be lessons to review to ascertain that taxpayers across the land aren't burdened by failed CEOs with deep pockets before the bankruptcies?

Two issues for Bordallo

Dear Congresswoman Bordallo,

There are several issues that I would like to discuss with you in hopes that you can provide some assistance to the Commonwealth. The first is the issue of military buildup in Guam and the CNMI. As you may already know, our businesses in the CNMI and Guam stand to have all sort of opportunities in acquiring federal contracts during the buildup. In the past, most of these contracts were awarded with preferential treatment to companies of Native Americans ownership. This leaves out companies owned by native Chamorros/Carolinians in Guam and the CNMI. Is there a way for us to change this to include Guam and the CNMI as Native Americans, similar to Alaska and Hawaii? After all we will be greatly impacted by the buildup and it just makes sense that we are also accorded preferential treatment in the award of federal contracts.

The second issue is the federalization of CNMI Immigration legislation. Although I personally am in favor with most of the legislation, there seem to be a problem with our immigration employees who will be displaced as a result of its implementation. While Congress discussed at length the plight of alien workers, no one discussed the plight of CNMI immigration employees. Is there anything that Congress can do to rectify this impending displacement?

As always I surely appreciate all your help and the assistance you have been providing to the CNMI.

David M. Cing
Tinian

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R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	26,899
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,599
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	5,399
TOYOTA MINI VAN								
R08-016F	2004	SIENNA CE	AUTO	60234	BEIGE	ABZ-410	10,999	
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ERMIAS M. IGUEL and DIONICIA O. IGUEL (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 30, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 31, 1984, under File No. 84-1365 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Chalan Kanoa and hereafter described:

Lot number 014 H 11, and containing an area of 360 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 014 H 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 705, on the 1st day of March, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on May 18, 2006. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $24,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $24,130.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office

INVITATION FOR BID

NMC No.: IFB 08-007
Single Audit Services for Fiscal-Year 2008

The Northern Marianas is soliciting for sealed competitive bids for auditing services (Single Audit) for fiscal year September 30, 2008. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. **Any bid/proposal received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected.** Bids/proposals rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: Friday, October 3rd, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan or the NMC Tinian Instructional Site Administrative Offices. Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due October 3rd, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan or the NMC Rota Instructional Site Administrative Office. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations, and in accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118; **"Local Business Preference"** is **available to local bidders** in this procurement. Bidders must also comply with Public Law 15-108 "The Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007". For bidders located **outside the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by:

/s/ **Duane R.T. Sablan**
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/s/ **Dr. Carmen F. Fernandez**
President, Northern Marianas College

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

All about Azipods

By ED STEPHENS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Some of my best friends on Saipan have been captains of the nautical stripe. Many are quite adventurous, and spin great yarns about distant shores that I've yet to visit, such as the Solomon Islands, the Marquesas Islands, and such. On the tamer end of the spectrum, some of my relatives just took their first ever cruise ship excursion (in Alaska); they were so impressed with the operation that they suggested it would make a good column on how solid customer service makes for happy tourists.

I said OK, but as I prepared that work, I veered into an engineering caper that's pretty cool.

I was looking over a passenger's "Cruise Log" from the MS *Oosterdam*, part of the Holland America Line. The log is one of many nice touches for the passengers, a simple little summary of where they went, distances, speeds, and such. The back of the log has a summary of the ship's engineering; this is a monster of a ship, displacing 82,000 tons, which is on par with some aircraft carriers.

Here was the caper, and you ship guys will appreciate this. Under the "power" section of the engineering summary, it lists five "diesel generators," plus one "gas turbine." From the way that's worded, I assumed that the diesels are making electricity, and the gas turbine (which is basically a jet engine that drives gears) was used for propulsion, though the turbine struck me as way too puny for that job. Things didn't add up.

I got even more confused when under "propulsion" the listing was this: "2 x ABB Azipods."

Azi-what? What's going on here? What's going on is that the modern age has, yet again, leapfrogged right over my head.

Conventional ship propulsion is sort of like a pickup truck. You've got a power plant (engine), which drives a shaft, which goes to a transmission, which reduces the RPMs, which drives another shaft, which drives, instead of tires, the propeller (a/k/a/ "screw.") That's what car people call the drive train.

As for power plants, I've been to sea aboard nuclear, diesel, boiler, and gas turbine varieties, but, regardless of the power plant style, the basic concept of drive trains is (OK, was) still the same.

Well, along comes the Azipod, a trade name for a Swiss company called ABB.

You've heard of fly by wire? This is thrust by wire.

An Azipod is a submersed pod that contains an electric motor and a propeller. On the examples I saw on Internet photos, the ships had two such pods, each of which could swivel, and each of which was mounted outboard of where the ships' rudders would be. I say "would be" since the swiveling Azipods serve the purpose of a rudder.

So there's no mechanical drive shaft between the ship and the propellers. The ship's engines drive generators (hence that "diesel generator" phrase that I had encountered; the gas turbine also drives a generator), which (of course) produce electricity, which is (of course) run to the Azipods.

The propellers, incidentally, are fixed-pitch, not variable-pitch.

The Azipods must pack some muscle: According to the cruise log, the MS *Oosterdam* was making good 22 knots along parts of its voyage. That's a hair over 25 miles per hour. Not too shabby!

This isn't just a civvy thing. The U.S. Coast Guard uses Azipods on one of its ships, the USCGC *Mackinaw* (WLBB-30), which was commissioned in 2005.

I'm pretty much a nut for anything that moves: Ships, planes, helicopters, cars, you name it. Maybe that's because I just can't sit still. I prefer to be moving. Some other folks do, too, but in this sedentary age, I suppose we're a dying breed. Hopefully, Saipan will always have some captains as part of the local color, who can provide perspectives too big to be held in cubicles.

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

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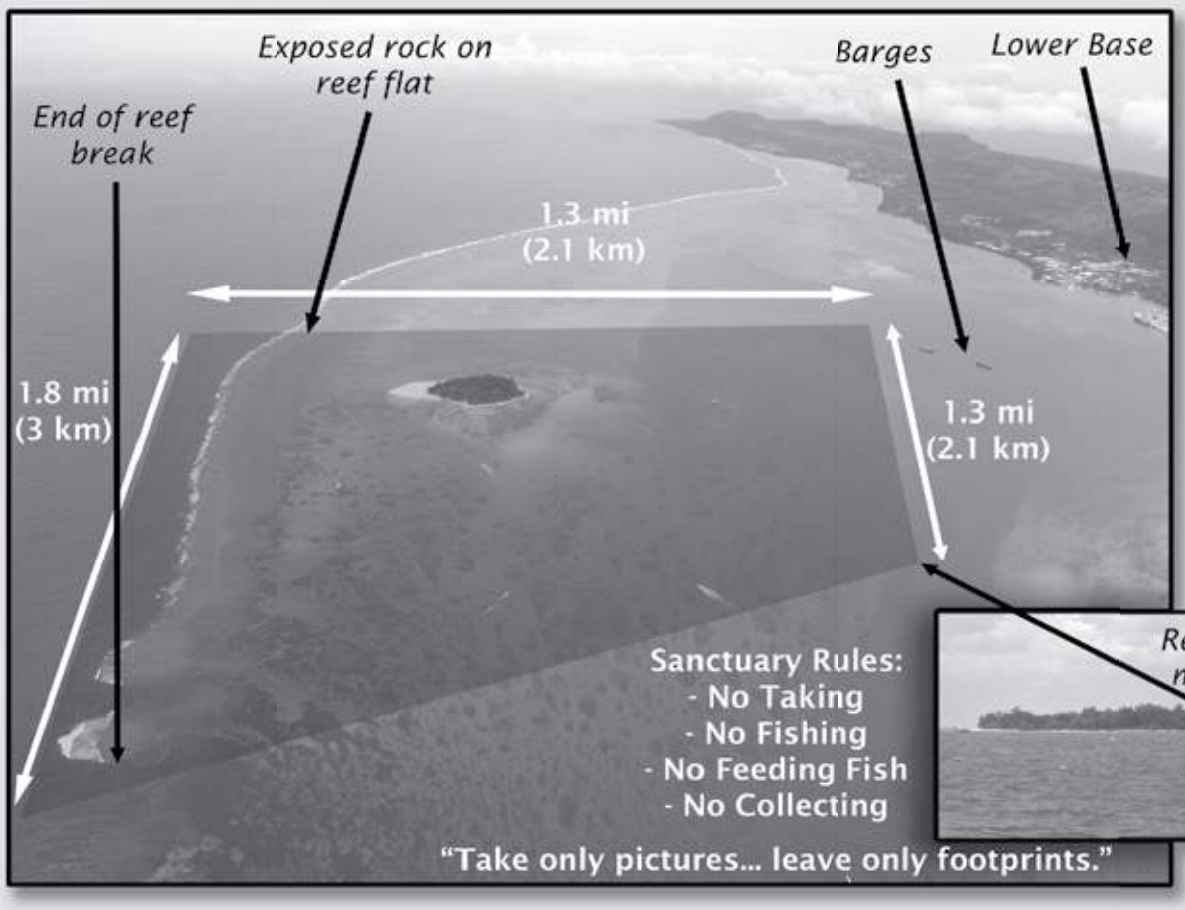

Do not stand on coral!

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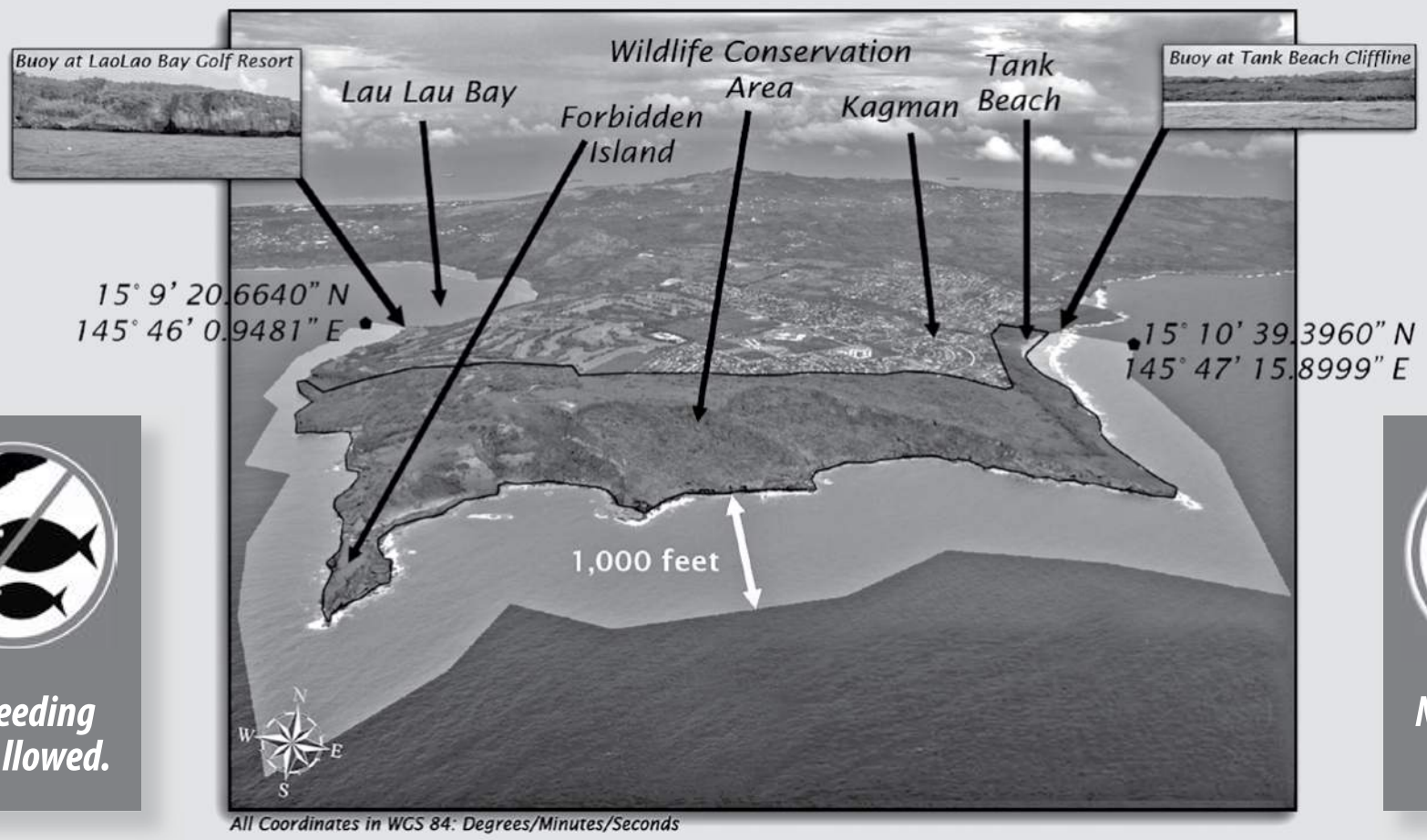

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Letters to the Editor

A great thing for the CNMI

The Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument would like to express our thanks to our friends Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, Secretary of DLNR; Mr. Jim Davies; and the Division of Fish & Wildlife for promoting the marine monument concept to the CNMI public.

Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz is also a voting council member of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council. He is the designated Wespac state official. He is a Wespac member of the Pelagic and International Ecosystems committee, the Enforcement/VMS committee, the Fishery Rights of Indigenous People committee, and the Fisheries Data Coordinating Committee. He is Wespac chairman of Program Planning and Research committee, co-chairman of the Mariana Archipelago Ecosystem. We thank him for pointing out in his latest newspaper article that millions of dollars and many jobs will be associated with the designation of the proposed MTMM in an area that currently provides no economic benefits at all to the CNMI. When interviewed on TV, he said: "There is virtually no fishing occurring in the proposed marine monument area." Of course, he also said: "If Pew were to give the CNMI government $200-300 million with no strings attached, then, the government would entertain the idea.

The Friends of the MTMM would also like to thank Mr. Jim Davies for his vision in promoting the marine monument for the world class research center and for the educational opportunities that he talked about in his recent letter to the editor. While on Maui, last October, I visited the "world class" Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary facility in Kihei. "… The new building will provide expanded facilities for research and education programs that will enhance humpback whale protection in Hawaii. The new facility will also offer additional opportunities for education on the marine environment and provide a venue for programs and meetings. This new building will complement the existing "landmark" blue office building and mural painted education center…" The CNMI could have a similar facility devoted to the deep water life found in the deepest part of the ocean: the Marianas Trench. It would be funded through the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Sanctuaries program. Perhaps, he can enroll in NMC to study oceanography when the marine monument is designated.

And, finally, we would like to thank Sylvan Igisomar, Director of DFW, who is also the Wespac state designee for the Fisheries Data Coordinating committee, the Wespac Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Representative for the CNMI, and the Marianas Archipelago REAC-CNMI government representative. Let's not leave out Mike Trianni and Mike Tenorio and all the rest of the Wespac gang that run DFW.

Thanks, again, for your support of the marine monument; it is a great thing for the CNMI.

Ken Kramer
Friends of the MTMM

A new era of advanced representation

Mr. James Camacho: Your letter titled "Stop manipulating voters" believe it or not, is well received and understood by the people. Simply for the reason that it is indeed what we have been doing for the longest time and that it is high time we examine what it gets us in! What does cousin voting, party voting, and friendship voting has done for us the past 25 years? Look around us and all these mess will indicate to you answers that you wouldn't want your children to learn. You wouldn't want your children to know that you made the decision that was not wise for them. Although I honor and love my parents and all my elders, I blame them for not securing my future then, when they did not vote for honest and highly qualified leaders Please be reminded that no one knows whom you voted for but yourself. I trust that this time you will vote not by way of cousins, party, or friendship. Vote for those who are the most highly qualified candidates.

Get out of the business of old politics and enter the new era of advanced representation. Look all around you and then ask yourself this question: Am I going to vote for my cousin, my party, or for my friend? And then look all around you again. Or are you going to vote for the most highly qualified candidate?

Alexandro Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

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Letter to the Editor

My concerns: Places to get started!

Though by no means fully conversant about the government-at-large and all of the nuances as to how it operates, I do have some concerns about a few selected topics as follows. They are basic, and they just happen to be a few things that initially come to mind. No doubt that many of you have a number of other concerns as well.

For starters, how about a CNMI budget for fiscal 2008-09? The budget represents a "map of many destinations" for all our government expenditures for an entire year. Not many of us would start a journey (for example, across the mainland by automobile) without a map to direct us. If you don't know where you are going, any road will do. Do we know where we are going fiscally as a Commonwealth? Please show us a map. Come on Governor and Legislature, begin to develop yourselves as servers and leaders and give us a budget. Earn our respect. Give us what is due of any responsible government. The time is now only five more days to New Year's Day-Fiscal!

CUC is certainly the "ongoing affair." How to manage it? What's the projected cash flow for the next year? A sources-and-uses-of-funds document in plain English would be a great start for monitoring the overall reliability of CUC. What are the next kinds of needs for funds to maintain adequate repairs and maintenance? Major capital infusion necessary to up grade? What? When? Who? How much!? Is anybody really in charge?

Since we're now talking about money, perhaps we should address the legislators' so-called "discretionary funds." It sounds a bit mysterious to me. However, I not so long ago witnessed new pavilions constructed at Pau Pau Beach Park. They were badly needed as the old ones were in dangerously ill repair. The new ones appear to be well-built with good materials, as well as having a strong, yet pleasing appearance. I really enjoy and appreciate having the Park restored. At the conclusion of construction and painting a stenciled sign was painted on each pavillion reading, "Project by: Representative Justo Quitugua." A job well done.

But wait, how do we know it's a job well done? Although I really don't have any personal doubts about how the money was spent, some would wonder if there are records that contain such data? Are they available to the people (i.e., public) to look at? And then there are those who might wonder why, instead, it wasn't included in the funding for parks' maintenance and repairs? That would seem to be the responsibility of that department. At any rate, some kind of accounting for the discretionary funds and perhaps a report that the public has access to would be valuable in strengthening communications between legislators and the people. It would be some solid evidence of the value of the legislators' actions, and it would create an opportunity to build trust and meaningful interactions between those elected to serve and the people.

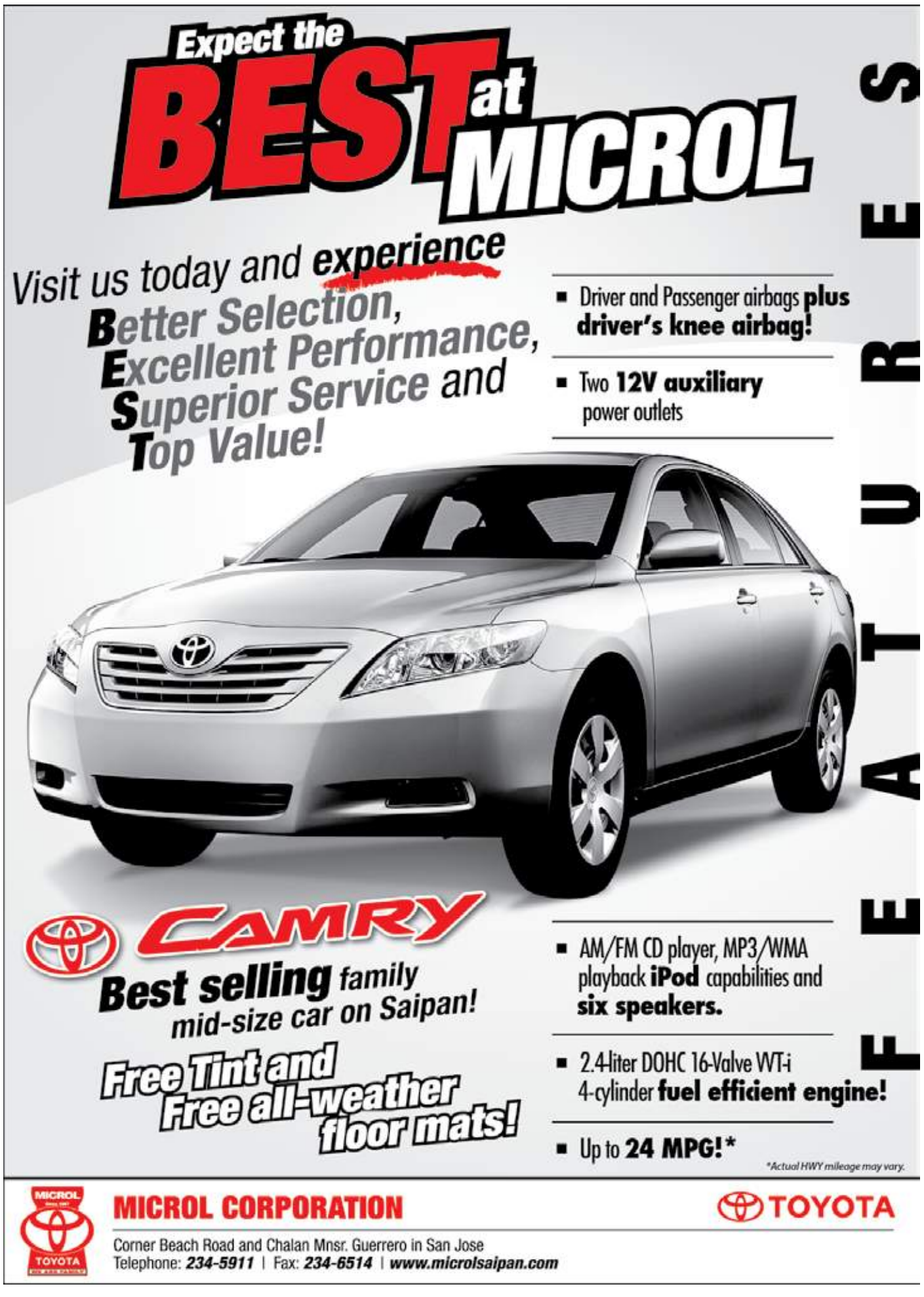
A fourth concern is about the legislative process. Might the process operate in a manner making it a bit more open, honest and fair? Many think so and want some changes, and want them now. The issues that I've heard a number of people discuss concern the basic process itself. How is legislation introduced? Is there adequate notice and time for discussions and inputs in the House and Senate? Is due diligence conducted by lawmakers and their staff? Are there planned public presentations, with adequate notice given to the public? Are they scheduled during times and at locations to allow as many of the people as possible a chance to be heard on the issues? Is the process transparent? Are the best interests of all the people served? No doubt, some of you have additional questions.

And lastly it is quite apparent that many people are concerned about the Lt. Governor and what he is doing on a day-by-day basis as he remains in office. Under the circumstances, what is normal and customary for an individual serving in such a trusted elected capacity to do? Is it customary to take a leave of absence (of one form or another)? Does the Governor have any powers that could be invoked? Does the Lt. Governor continue to have contact with CUC and its personnel? It's all quite confusing.

We've all been reminded that our jurisprudence system assumes "innocent until proven guilty." And as I understand the incident involving the Lt. Governor, one of the four charged individuals has pleaded guilty and is seeking to lessen his penalty by cooperating with the feds. Also, a second one of the four has resigned or retired from a Secretary's position within the government. The third person is a private citizen, not in the employ of the government. And then the Lt. Governor rounds out the list of four. What's "appropriate" under the conditions?

Guess that's it for starters.

Perry Conner
As Matuis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How much a trip to the monument will cost?

The proposed monument idea from Pew needs to address operational issues that have not been discussed if the benefits are to be realized. Let's take a look at just one of them.

Tourism to the three northern islands means transportation: either by air or by sea. I'm not a pilot and not an expert in air travel, but I'd think that the cost would be well out of reach for the average tourist, scientist, or anyone but the ultra wealthy.

We all would love to see cheap flights to there, but there are no cheap flights to Rota, Tinian, or Guam. By sea you'll need an appropriate U.S. Coast Guard documented, registered, and inspected vessel staffed by USCG licensed, trained mariners.

The vessel has to be of size to be able to handle any inclement weather and transport the passengers in comfort. Average winter wave sizes, total distance traveled, plus time aboard dictates minimum vessel dimensions.

These indicate the vessel needs to be at least 70 feet, but closer to 100 would be more realistic. If the vessel travels at 10 knots then it will take 10 hours of non-stop steaming to go 100 miles, 20 hours to go 200 miles, etc. At 20 knots it will take 10 hours to go 200 miles. I currently captain a 65-footer that sleeps eight total, that cruises at 22 knots burning 100 gallons per hour.

To make a 220-mile trip at cruising speed we use about 1,000 gallons. A roundtrip from Saipan to Anatahan is near 160 miles. The three northern islands are close to 700 miles round trip from Saipan. If I did that with my vessel it would need at least 3,000 gallons of fuel for the trip to and from. Any time we're not moving we are still using fuel for power generator onboard. If fuel costs $4per gallon, that's $12,000 per trip.

The vessel will also need to buy food and perhaps water, pay for crew (at least four), maintenance, berthing fees, office costs, booking agent costs, and insurance. Repairs and profit are not included, nor is the every two-year haul out fees or the initial cost of the vessel. Finding a reliable, suitable 80-foot vessel that can cruise at 20 knots will cost at least $1 million, but realistically closer to $3 million by the time the vessel is make ready for this purpose and is delivered to Saipan.

Slower vessels may be less expensive. These are just a few of the operational issues that would be relevant. It is certainly not a complete list, but they ought to clearly indicate the depth and complexity of marine tourism by sea to the upper northern islands. After 20 plus years in marine tourism working in dozens of locations around the globe, my expert opinion is that it is highly unlikely that any entity attempting to undertake such endeavor will succeed. I also believe that no person or business will express interest in trying to do this unless it is a non-profit organization. Perhaps the Pew Foundation is interested. If so, please let me know so I can assist.

William McCue
Via email

Editor's Note: Our publisher went there in 1992 via helicopter and the entire trip cost her $10,500.

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What am I getting at?

Did anyone else besides me object to a certain private school principal sharing accounts of his suffering during the absolute worst CUC power outages few weeks ago? What am I getting at? Well, this principal, whom I'll refer to as "Mr. 77" because both his first and last name begin with the 7th letter of the alphabet, spoke at the recent rally against CUC at Garapan Fishing Base, passionately describing his suffering caused by the power outages.

What am I getting at? Well, this principal was and as far as I'm concerned *still* is a diehard BB (Babauta Benavente) supporter, maybe more so Babauta these days. Now it's one thing to criticize CUC and the Fitial Administration for their obvious mismanagement of CUC that reached its bursting point couple weeks ago. But to criticize without examining one's self is unacceptable. I also suffered from the power outages, and have written strongly against the Fitial Administration. In fact, I even encouraged the Fitial Administration to resign from office.

What am I getting at? To be clear, I am in no way endorsing any administration past or current as I strongly believe they all had an equal hand in destroying CUC. Just like the Fitial Administration, the Babauta-Benavente Administration had the opportunity to finally do the right thing with CUC, but did not. The Babauta administration ignored the dire need for the power plant engines to be overhauled, thus setting the stage for CUC's eventual demise. And of course, the Fitial Administration's band-aid solutions sped up the engines' death sentence. Hmmm, I wonder if the idiotic, biggest waste of $200,000 for the Rose Bowl parade float that was the bright idea of the Babauta-Benavente Administration the reason for neglecting the engine overhaul plans? Makes me wonder. Was there a certain Babauta-Benavente Cabinet member in charge of the Rose Bowl parade idea? Could it be that Mr. 77 was the Rose Bowl brain child?

So what am I really getting at? Well you see, Mr. 77 unfortunately is targeted here because I find his actions at last week's rally against CUC quite hypocritical. Also, with the upcoming 2009 elections, you can be assured that droves of the good ol' boys will jockey for position to become Governor and Lt. Governor once again... kinda like the wildebeest of the African plains following the rain to greener pastures. For sure Juan Babauta and Diego Benavente will seek the Governor's Office on opposing tickets.

So what am I getting at? How many Babauta-Benavente supporters, or better yet "BB Disciples" were at the rally against CUC last week? I'd say a fair assessment is better than half the people that showed up, give or take. So what am I getting at? Well Alexandro "Colonel" Sablan, who I recently developed enormous respect for, for his comeback letter on the betel nut spit issue I previously wrote about, said "no one can know who you voted for but yourself," concerning the history of voting practices in the CNMI.

So just what exactly am I getting at? Well, I'd like to pose a question to Mr. 77 and the rest of the Babauta disciples and Benavente disciples. Babauta and Benavente failed just as miserably as Fitial and Villagomez are failing as Governor and Lt. Governor. So my point is actually a question. Why in the world would you even consider voting for Juan N. Babauta or Diego T. Benavente? Now we all know that Benigno Fitial and Timothy Villagomez are forever doomed and never will get re-elected into any political office. So what about Babauta and Benavente? Do they deserve any more salary from the taxpayers? They failed the CNMI as well. Mr. 77, will you be supporting Babauta or Benavente? Only you would know, right?

I hope your conscience gets the better of you while at the voting polls next November 2009, and same goes for all other BB Disciples. To be clear, I'm not endorsing the blue boys either (Heinz and Dave), although they sure have the advantage of a front row seat watching the pitfalls of the past and current administration unfold before their eyes. For sure they are taking good notes and planning their next move. I hope they learn from the mistakes of the previous administrations, including the Fitial Administration whom I consider "previous" as I think their re-election bid either together or on separate tickets is as promising as flying pigs or snow in hell.

What does the CNMI need? To answer my own question, "I don't know." I do, however, know what the CNMI does NOT need, which would be Babauta, Benavente, Fitial and Villagomez. I could go further and list members of the 16th Legislature, both upper and lower house, but I'll leave it at that.

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Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Saipan, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot imapropopone na plano nuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

i. I tineteka na tano publiko madeskribe komo 003 A 11 (49,450 metro kuatdrao), 003 A 20 (49,503 metro kuatdrao), yan 003 A 19 (10,000 metro kuatdrao) maso sino menos nigaige giya Magpi, Saipan. Kopian lugat este siha nasitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu I publiku.

ii. I para u inatkilai Flame Sako Resort yan Spa un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha isigiente: Kang Dae Sik, Joon Sung Jung yan Woon Hwa Chung.

I Presidenten I kompania si Kang Dae Sik; Chun Sik Min, Segundo Presidente.

iii. I para u atkila ilugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel yan otro siha na fasilidat.

I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.

I mapropopone na atkilon manegosio as Señot Young Woo Lee.

iv. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.

v. I Depattamenton Tano ta ya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Magpi, Saipan.

vi. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Oktubre 3, 2008 todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyoor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwughuw limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 003 A 19, faigh me tiwoow sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghuus, me Lot No. 003 A 20,, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máschepi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Flame Sako Corporation. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Dae Sik Kang me Chun Sik Min.

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Dae Sik Kange. Vice President nge Chun Sik Min.

iii. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Young Woo Lee.

iv. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

v. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máschepi, Seipél.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Ottuubre (October) 3, 2008 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot Nos. 003 A 11, 003 A 19, 003 A 20 containing areas of approximately 49,500 square meters, 10,000 square meters, and 49,503 square meters (respectively), more or less, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Flame Sako Corporation, a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Dae Sik Kang, Joon Sung Jung, and Woon Hwa Chung.

The President corporation is Dae Sik Kang. The Vice President is Chun Sik Min.

iii. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a resort hotel and spa and related facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Young Woo Lee.

iv. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

v. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Marpi, Saipan.

vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3 , 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

High success rate in HPV campaign

The HPV coalition has successfully completed the first year of a two-year campaign to protect young women in the community against cervical cancer by having them vaccinated against the human papilloma virus.

The coalition is made up of members from various units of the Department of Health, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, and Stellar Marianas from the private sector.

The HPV vaccine will reduce cervical cancer by an estimated 70 percent in vaccinated women.

"When you consider that the rate of cervical cancer in the CNMI is five to six times greater than the U.S. mainland, a reduction of 70 percent is significant," said Dr. John C. Hardy, senior adviser for the Commonwealth Cancer Association and a member of the HPV Campaign Committee.

The HPV vaccine is expensive. It cost $360 for the series of three shots, and administration fees can add $100 or more when provided by a private doctor. It is free to all high school and middle school girls under the age of 19 years.

The HPV vaccine is recommended for all female ages 9 years to 26 years old by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American college of Obstetricians and Gynecologist and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Since the vaccine was introduced in 2006, about 8 million females in the U.S. have received at least one dose of HPV. The Department of Health will provide this vaccine to seventh and eighth grade girls beginning this school year.

During the last school year, about 4,000 doses of HPV vaccine were administered to 1,400 high school girls. About 77 percent have received the required three doses. Five of the 12 CNMI high schools had 100 percent of their female students vaccinated with all three doses. This success is dampened by the 124 eligible girls (8 percent) who failed to take advantage of the opportunity to obtain free vaccine. A follow-up survey showed that this failure was mainly due to their fear of injections.

"These young women sadly selected years of risking cervical cancer and even death, rather than face three needle sticks," said Hardy.

The second year of the HPV campaign will focus on the middle schools (grades 7, and 8) and the freshman students in high schools. The coalition will send teams of public health nurses to each school in October, December and April to administer the HPV vaccine. During this second year, all high school students who failed to complete the three dose series last year can take advantage of this year's school visit. In addition, they can visit the immunization clinics for any missing shots. They can simply walk-in during office hours.

The female students will be provided packets of informational material covering the vaccine and cervical cancer, along with a parental consent form. No student will be vaccinated without her parent's written permission. The signed consent form should be returned to the school the next day after distribution of the packet.

"In these difficult times it is nice to see the CNMI leading the way among Pacific islands in protecting its young women against this deadly cancer," said Hardy. ***(PR)***

12 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on 12 beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not fish or swim 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the beaches by the Palms Resort Saipan, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Hafa Adai Hotel, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach Drainage, Sugar Dock, and CK Dist #2 Drainage.

Samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These fecal indicator bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment.

This week, DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water collected from 38 locations on Saipan's coast. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

MVA at Expat Show in Shanghai

The Marianas Visitors Authority, along with Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty, recently attended the 2008 Expat Show in Shaghai, China. The goal was to further explore one of the CNMI's fastest growing visitor markets.

The Expat Show is a unique brand established by the World Events Agency in China. MVA attended the 2008 Expat Show Beijing, which proved to be a great success, prompting MVA to participate in the Expat Show in Shanghai. This gives MVA the opportunity to further display the beauty and attributes of the CNMI to the expatriate community in Shanghai and nearby cities.

Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty shared the MVA booth and took the opportunity to present their tour packages, accommodation facilities, and other services for potential CNMI visitors. Family packages and sports packages such as diving and golf are the most favorable activities for the expatriate community. Most of the visitors at the event also expressed that they prefer lots of relaxation during their vacation away from their busy city life as well as a safe U.S. destination, with very short travel time. Therefore, the CNMI is a very attractive destination for the expatriate living in China.

"We look forward to increased arrivals from China," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The expatriate market is a potential niche market from China to the CNMI. The opportunity to participate at the Expat Show is a perfect place for us to showcase our islands in China." ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An MVA representative speaks with guests at the booth at the Expat Show to showcase the CNMI as a destination.

TOYS 10% - 30% OFF (SELECTED ONLY)

Sara Market II

CAPITOL HILL • 322-9596

Payday Special Sale

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS 10% - 25% OFF (SELECTED ONLY)

SEPTEMBER 26 TO OCTOBER 10, 2008 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SHOP & LEAVE TOTALLY COMPLETE

FOOD STAMPS WELCOME • FRIENDLY SERVICE • EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Leg Quarter
22 LBS. $19.99
33 LBS. $24.99

Whole Chicken
LIMIT 1 CASE
$33.99

Young Spare Ribs
10 LBS.
$14.99

Spare Ribs
20 LBS.
$15.99

Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS.
LIMIT 2 SACKS
$32.99

Beef Spare Ribs
20 LBS.
$21.99

Pork Riblets
10 LBS.
$10.99

Whole Horse Mackarel
22 LBS. $19.99
44 LBS. $24.95

Turkey Tail
20 LBS.
$12.99

Jasmine Lotus Rice
50 LBS.
$29.99

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Kool-Aid 32 oz. $7.99
Tang 22 qts. $5.99
Nestea Iced Tea 36 qts. $7.99
Country Time 5lbs. 2.5 oz.(2.33kg) $7.99
Spam All Kinds 12 oz. LIMIT 12 $1.89
Sun Flower Mackarel 15 oz. $1.59
Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 79¢

Coffee-Mate Creamer 50 oz. $7.99
Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. $7.99
Ocean Best Crabmeat Imitation 1 lb. $2.29
Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 $1.99
Golden State Vinegar 1 Gal. $2.79
Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 89¢
Carnation Evaporated Milk 12 oz. 99¢

Ground Beef 5 LBS. $9.99 / 10 LBS. $16.95
Pike Mackarel Family Bag $5.95
Mackarel Family Bag $5.95
Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. 99¢
DM Beef Stew 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00
One Whole Chicken 50 oz. $4.99
Ace of Diamonds Tuna LIMIT 12 Cans $1.09

Gusto Ham 10 lbs. $16.99
Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $14.95
Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. $3.99
Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. $1.39
Hormel Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 59¢
Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00
Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.79

Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. $2.49
Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.05
Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. $15.99
Real Fresh Milk (Reg. & Low Fat) $17.99/CASE 236ml. $13.99
Pickles Vlasic Whole Dill 1 Gal. $5.99
Vlasic Dill Pickles (Spears) 1 Gal. $6.99
Marca El Rey Chorizos 4 lb./64 oz. $21.99/CAN
Moist Deluxe All Flavors 18.25 oz. 2 FOR $3.00

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. $2.39
Seafood Mix Log Feng Brand 1 lb. $2.59
Blue Crab Section Per Box $8.95
Kikkoman 1.6 L. $3.79
Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99
Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 $31.99
Crisco Shortening 3 lbs. $4.99

Vega Shrimp 1 lb. $5.50
Green Mussels 2 lbs. $4.99
Milk Fish $1.59
Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. $2.59
Sugar 2 kg. $1.69
Maseca Corn Flour 4.4 lbs. $3.59
Platinum Napkin 360 cnts. $3.99

Tilapia $1.19
U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $2.29
Chicken Wings 5.5 lbs. $10.99
Ichiban Limit 2 CASES $7.99/CASE
Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 59¢
Foam Plates 125 ct. $5.99
Bounty Basic 8 Roll $8.99

Kraft Cool Whip 8 OZ. $1.99 / 16 OZ. $3.50
Candle Plain White Only $12.95/CASE
Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR $3.00
Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case $20.99/CASE
Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $5.99
Enfamil 25.7 $26.99
Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. 99¢

Garlic $0.79¢ 4 pcs./Bundle
Onion $0.79¢ PERPOUND
SpringField Vegetable Oil 128 fl.oz. (1Gal) $8.99
Crisco Pure Corn Oil 1 Gal. $9.99
Philadelphia Cream Cheese $2.39
Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $5.99
Shasta Drinks 12oz All Flavor (warm only) $9.99/CASE
Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99
Pepsi Regular Warm Only $13.99/CASE

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	$4.50
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	$16.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
GAIN LIQUID (200 OZ.) ORIGINAL ONLY	$11.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95
STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$13.99
BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95
BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95
BEEF STEW	$12.95
RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
PORK BUTT	$10.95

Budweiser / Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $24.99
Chamorro Punch 1 Gal. $8.99

Island Snapshots

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COURTYARD MEMORIAL COUNCIL

Leadership Courtyard Memorial members: Standing in front left to right: Council chair Antonia M. Tudela, Jean Sablan, former Municipal Council Speaker Vicente T. Camacho, Saipan Tribune's Kristi Eaton, and vice chair/secretary Ramon B. Camacho. Back row, from left, are former Saipan Mayor Frank Diaz, Brian Smith, DPW; William S. Torres, Council adviser; John D. Palacios, HPO; Councilman Felipe Q. Atalig; and Robert Hunter. Not in the picture are: former Covenant negotiator Vicente N. Santos, Gonzalo Santos, Indigenous Affairs; Remedio S. Buniag, Women Affairs Office; Angie I. Mangarero, executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs; Raymond C. Sablan, Parks and Recreation.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ENERGY TALKS

Nikolao Pula, director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, visits the control room of the Aggreko generators in Lower Base Tuesday. Also in photo are Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio S. Muña, governor's geothermal and renewable energy advisor Thomas S. Salas, U.S. Office of Insular Affairs policy division's Francisco I. Taitano and plant general managing engineer Venugopal Prabhakara.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

VISITING OFFICIAL

Nikolao Pula, director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, shares a light moment with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial during the Water Task Force ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Calhoun reservoir in Navy Hill Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMO DAY

Children look inside the emergency ambulance with Firefighter Romeo Iginoef during the CNMI Emergency Management Office Multi-Cultural Day at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Sunday as part of the activities for Disaster Preparedness Month. The event included free presentations and informational displays on disaster preparedness.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAFEA MEETING

Members of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects pose for a group picture during their lunch meeting held Saturday at Miggy's Restaurant. MAFEA will be having its induction of officers and board of directors for the year 2008 on Sept. 27, 6pm - 10pm, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hibiscus Hall. All engineers and architects on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are invited to come and be part of the event.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Birthday girl Erich Manalo poses with her friends and guests during her birthday party held at the JC Cafe-Tinian on Sept. 19, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ORANGE SAPLINGS

Agricultural researcher Lawrence Duponcheel inspects young orange trees growing on the Northern Marianas College's Tinian campus. The trees are key to a research project that will help local farmers on the island determine the best strains of citrus to raise there.

STEFAN SEBASTIAN

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

RICE DONATION

Man'amko Advisory Council chair Frank Reyes looks at the bags of Calrose rice generously donated by a group of Korean tour guides to the Man'amko Center/Office of Aging in Garapan Wednesday.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-037

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Marianas High School (MHS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-037" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 02, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-037" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-001

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop Computer Systems and Accessories for Koblerville Elementary School (KoES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 08, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

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/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 09-002

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Procurement of Janitorial Services for School Cafeterias**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-002" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **October 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-002, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P & S Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP 09-001

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing **Mental Health Consultation Services for the Public School System's Head Start Program**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-001" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **October 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-001 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one(1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumtance.

Technical question shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax# (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

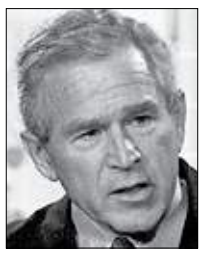
/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Business

Bush warns of 'long and painful recession'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush on Wednesday warned Americans and lawmakers reluctant to pass a $700 billion financial rescue plan that failing to act fast risks wiping out retirement savings, rising foreclosures, lost jobs and closed businesses. "Our entire economy is in danger," he said.


Bush

His dire warning came not long after the president issued extraordinary invitations to presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, one of whom will inherit the mess in four months, as well as key congressional leaders to a White House meeting on Thursday to work on a compromise.

"Without immediate action by Congress, American could slip into a financial panic and a distressing scenario would unfold," Bush said in a 12-minute prime-time address from the White House East Room that he hoped would help rescue his tough-sell bailout package.

Changes

Bush explicitly endorsed several of the changes that have been demanded in recent days from the right and left. But he warned that he would draw the line at regulations he determined would hamper economic growth.

"It should be enacted as soon as possible," the president said.

The bailout, which the Bush administration asked Congress last weekend to approve before it adjourns, is meeting with deep skepticism, especially from conservatives in Bush's own party who are revolting at the high price tag and unprecedented private-sector intervention. Though there is general agreement that something must be done to address the spiraling economic problems, the timing and even the size of the package remained in doubt and the administration has been forced to accept changes almost daily.

Taxpayers' money

Seeking to explain himself to conservatives, Bush stressed he was reluctant to put taxpayer money on the line to help businesses that had made bad decisions and that the rescue is not aimed at saving individual companies. He tried to address some of the major complaints from Democrats by promising that CEOs of failed companies won't be rewarded.

"With the situation becoming more precarious by the day, I faced a choice: to step in with dramatic government action or to stand back and allow the irresponsible actions by some to undermine the financial security of all," Bush said. "These are not normal circumstances."

The president turned himself into an economics professor for much of the address, tracing the origins of the problem back a decade to a large influx of money into the U.S. system from overseas, low interest rates, the "faulty assumption" that home values would continue to skyrocket, easy lending by mortgage companies, over-borrowing by home owners and exuberant building by construction firms.

No blame

But while generally acknowledging risky and poorly thought-out financial decisions at many levels of society, Bush never assigned blame to any specific entity, such as his administration, the quasi-indepedent mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, or the Wall Street firms that built rising profits on increasingly speculative mortgage-backed securities. Instead, he spoke in terms of investment banks that "found themselves saddled with" toxic assets and banks that "found themselves" with questionable balance sheets.

Intensive, personal wheeling and dealing is not usually Bush's style as president, unlike some predecessors. He does not often call or meet with individual lawmakers to push a legislative priority.

Unusual step

But with the nation facing the biggest financial meltdown in decades, Bush took the unusual step of calling Democrat Obama personally about the meeting, said presidential spokeswoman Dana Perino. White House aides extended the invitations to Republican McCain and to GOP and Democratic leaders from Capitol Hill.

Obama spokesman Bill Burton said the senator would attend and "will continue to work in a bipartisan spirit and do whatever is necessary to come up with a final solution." Senior McCain advisers said McCain will attend, too. The plans of the other invitees were unknown, and the exact details of the meeting, which Perino said was aimed at making fast progress to stem the biggest financial meltdown in decades, were still being set.

Delta, NWA shareholders to vote on combination

By JOSHUA FREED and HARRY R. WEBER
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Delta and Northwest airlines are crossing off one more item on their checklist for becoming the world's biggest carrier, with shareholder votes at both companies Thursday expected to overwhelmingly back the deal combining the two.

Northwest Airlines Corp. shareholders were to vote on the stock-swap deal with Delta Air Lines Inc. at their annual meeting in New York, perhaps the last in the 82-year-old airline's history before it is swallowed by its larger rival.

Delta shareholders were set to meet near Atlanta in the afternoon to vote on whether to issue stock to Northwest shareholders as part of the transaction.

Four shareholder advisory firms have recommended votes in favor of the combination. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, which represents 12,500 Northwest ground workers, opposes the deal.

Majority votes are needed for the proposals to pass.

Their passage would leave U.S. regulatory approval and a pending federal lawsuit seeking to block the deal as the only remaining hurdles. A Justice Department decision could come in the next month or two. The lawsuit is set for trial Nov. 5 in San Francisco. Delta hopes to close the deal by the end of the year.

AP
In this April 23, 2008 file photo, a Delta plane taxis for takeoff past a Northwest plane at Portland International Airport in Portland, Ore.

Oil steady in Asia on supply delays and bailout plan

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices were steady Thursday in Asia below $106 a barrel as investors weighed supply delays in the Gulf of Mexico against concerns that the U.S. credit crisis will slow global economic growth and hurt crude demand.

Light, sweet crude for November delivery was down 3 cents to $105.70 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange midday in Singapore. The contract fell overnight 88 cents to settle at $105.73.

About 66 percent of oil production and 61 percent of natural gas output in the Gulf of Mexico remains shut-in after the passage of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, according to the U.S. Minerals Management Service. The Gulf area is home to a quarter of U.S. oil production and 40 percent of refining capacity.

Mexico's state oil company said Tuesday it temporarily reduced oil production because U.S. refineries damaged by Ike have canceled shipment orders.

Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, lowered its daily output by 250,000 barrels a day. The company said it expects production to be back to normal by the end of the week. Pemex produced an average of 2.75 million barrels a day in August, the latest available output figure.

OPEC's decision earlier this month to cut production by 520,000 barrels a day and militant threats to Nigerian oil operations have added to the supply shortage.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Start planning now for stress-free holidays

By DAVID UFFINGTON
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For too many, the holidays are a stressful time that results in one thing: an overload of spending debt that has to be paid after the new year. Debt-free holidays are possible, however, if you approach your spending with steely resolve—and if you start early.

Here are some steps to take:

- Decide on your budget now—what you can realistically afford to spend—and don't increase that amount, even if you discover later that you've left someone off the recipient list.
- Make your gift list, putting a spending limit on each item, and vow to stick to it.
- If you've had a Christmas club savings account that you've added to all year, you're ahead of the game. Plan on cash-only spending, and leave the credit cards at home when you shop.
- If you've never had the nerve to suggest it, this is the year to try to come to an agreement with relatives that there will be no gift swapping among the adults. Chances are they'll be relieved that you've brought it up. Opt for a family potluck get-together over the holidays instead of exchanging gifts.
- Buy a few items out of every paycheck and check them off your list.
- Start scouring the dollar stores, consignment shops, the sales racks at outlet stores and Salvation Army or Goodwill for bargains. Good bets for inexpensive gifts include picture frames to hold digital photos you print out, tins to hold home-baked cookies and treats, and DVDs and games.
- Do your homework. Use the Internet to track sales, and comparison shop for kids' toys and electronics.
- Consider whether some of your gift recipients, especially older relatives, would rather have a gift of your time than another trinket.
- If you plan to make gifts, get started so you're not tempted to rush out and buy later. If you plan to make homemade goodies, decide on your recipes now.

Expect to be tempted as the stores pull out all the stops to get you to buy. The closer you get to the holidays, the more likely you are to succumb to stress and overspend. Set your priorities, limit your spending, start now and plan for a debt-free holiday.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,960.800 Down 47.400 (-0.95%)
HONG KONG	18,984.13 Up 22.14 (+0.12 %)
JAKARTA	1,872.572 Down 10.979 (-0.58%)
TOKYO	12,006.53 Down 108.50 (-0.90%)
K. LUMPUR	1,028.40 Up 2.22 (+0.22%)
MANILA	2,566.37 Up 56.05 (+2.23%)
SINGAPORE	2,444.33 Down 33.27 (-1.34%)
SEOUL	1,501.63 Up 5.65 (+0.38%)
BANGKOK	614.58 Down 5.85 (-0.94%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,825.17 -29.00
NASDAQ	2,155.68 +2.35
S&P	1,185.87 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1921
British Pound	0.5367
Canadian Dollar	1.0353
Chinese Renminbi	6.8217
Euro	0.6774
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7713
Indian Rupee	46.2450
Indonesian Rupiah	9,380.0000
Japanese Yen	105.5680
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4244
New Zealand Dollar	1.4548
Philippine Peso	46.4350
Singapore Dollar	1.4192
South Korean Won	1,158.5000
Swiss Franc	1.0809
Taiwan Dollar	32.0000
Thailand Baht	33.9550

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-026

RESURFACING OF GARAPAN BASKETBALL COURT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Resurfacing of Garapan Basketball Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 12, 2008 at 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasure and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtained the project package at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on October 01, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at Garapan Basketball Court Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 06, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-026". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 14, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 14, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 14, 2008, and must be received no later than October 22, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 27, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 16, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-027

CONSTRUCTION OF LAULAU BAY PATHWAY PHASE 1 KAGMAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Laulau Bay Pathway Phase 1 Kagman, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **(CNMI).**

The project package will be available on or after September 26, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on October 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Entrance of Laulau Bay Golf Course. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. AR questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 17, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-027**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 22, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 22, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 22, 2008, and must be received no later than October 31, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 5, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 27, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Programs includes the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT); Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP); Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) which are programs of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each programs and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI.

I. Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: FY2008 $335,945.00.
Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG replaces the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs with a single funding mechanism to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). Any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG is eligible for JAG funding.

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

II. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program: FY 2008: $32,585
The primary purpose of the RSAT program is to assist states and units of local government in developing and implementing residential substance abuse treatment programs within state and local correctional and detention facilities in which prisoners are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit substance abuse treatment. Funds under this program may be used to implement residential substance abuse programs that provide individual and group treatment activities for offenders in residential facilities operated by state and local correctional agencies. The FY'08 grant proposes to use 7% for administration and 93% to fund direct services for the RSAT program. This program, which involves drug testing, calls for collaborative efforts among the Department of Corrections, Parole, Probation, and the Division of Mental Health and Social Services. The intended recipient of this program is the Department of Corrections.

III. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants are made available by the Department of Justice to fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The purpose for this category is to provide pre-delinquent or "at-risk" youth and status offenders with activities which will help to develop in them a sense of participation and responsibility to the community as well as develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Such programs or projects may include community service, anti-drug abuse projects & activities, outward bound type projects, youth centers, outreach, survival education, counseling, and other activities which foster the above characteristics. Included in this category are programs and projects that promote participation in organized activities, better self- image and self-esteem, and programs that instill community involvement and a sense of belonging which recreational activities may be a significant part of the overall program.

1. Title II Formula Grant: FY 2006: $13,666.00. FY2008: $45,000.00
The OJJDP Title II grants are made available to specifically fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program have four core-requirements. They are: 1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 2) Sight and Sound Separation between juvenile and adult inmates; 3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups and 4) The Disproportionate Minority Contact issue. Beyond these requirements, these funds can be used for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services.

2. Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2007 $23,821.00. FY2008: $11,494.00.
Established in the 1992 through the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, the Title V grant program is made available to funds collaborative and community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program integrates six (6) fundamental principles and they are: comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches, research foundation for planning, community control and decision-making, leveraging of resources and systems, evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness, and a long-term perspective to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. Title V provides funding and a framework to enable communities to develop and implement comprehensive 3-year prevention/strategic plans that are designed to reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and decrease juvenile problem behavior.

3. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2007 $50,348.00 and FY2008 $53,127.00.
The JABG grant program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 as amended. As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to reduce juvenile offending through supporting accountability-based programs that focus on offenders and state and local juvenile justice systems. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both the juvenile offender and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. In implementing the program, OJJDP seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender-focused and system-focused activities that promote accountability. For the juvenile justice system, strengthening the system requires an increased capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs in order to use their awards.

- Under the JABG FY 07, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $8,000.00; DYS-JPU: $8,000.00; DYS-JDU: $8,000.00; PDO: $8,000.00; OAG: $8,000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $5,348.00; YAC-JJTF: $5,000.00.***
- Under the JABG FY 08, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JDU: $8,127.00; PDO: $9,000.00; OAG: $9.000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $9,000.00.***

4. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2008 $332.500.00
Awarded to all territories including CNMI for FY 08, the OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant program are funds made available to supports and enhances efforts by states and territories to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. (Minors are defined as individuals under 21 years of age.) Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs in order to use their awards.

Under EUDL FY 08, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts:
Law Enforcement DPS-EUDL: $100,000.00; Prosecution OAG-EUDL: $50,000.00; YAC-JJTF: $47,500.00; The following amounts will be available to most qualified applicant(s) that will conduct and/or implement EUDL programs under these purpose areas: Innovative Programs: $95,000.00; Public Advertising: $40,000.00.

IV. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2008 $263,150
Established in 1984, the VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA grant program provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Funds made available through VOCA assistance program supports trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

V. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant Programs: FY2007 $558,808.20 and FY2008 $560,274.30
The Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP), VAWA. Established by legislation, funds through VAWA formula grant, are made available to support effort in developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others. STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In consistence with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

- Under the VAWA FY 07, these categories and agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***30% Victim Services: $167,642.46; 30%; Prosecution, Office of Attorney General: $167,642.46; 25% Law Enforcement, DPS: $139,702.05; 5% Superior Courts: $27,940.41; 10% Discretionary: $55,880.82***
- Under the VAWA FY 08, these categories and agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***30% Non-profit Organizations: $168,082.29; 30% Prosecution, Office of Attorney General: $168,082.29; 25% Law Enforcement, DPS: $140,068.57; 5% Superior Courts: $28,013.72; 10% Discretionary: $56,027.43***

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Sub-grant applicants under OJJDP funds will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) with the concurrence-approval of the Supervisory Council. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The Youth Advisory Council and the Supervisory Council are expected to meet early November 2008 and will be announced.

All applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. October 24, 2008.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Complete and full applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) send in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact the CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4553/4554/4556 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (House #1314 or #1315) Also, the application format is available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp for use. Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call Mr. Jerome Ierome, Executive Director at 664-4550.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

Nation

Bush, candidates, lawmakers to meet on rescue plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush summoned Barack Obama, John McCain and legislative leaders to an extraordinary White House summit, warning Americans and Congress on Wednesday night that failing to act on a $700 billion financial industry bailout could lead to "a long and painful recession."

Earlier, Bush bowed to Democratic demands to limit the pay of executives whose tottering companies would be rescued, and appeared to be softening his resistance to Democrats' demand that the eye-popping cost be phased in rather than approved all at once.

Democrats and Republicans were nearing agreement on the rescue legislation, the most sweeping government intervention in the market since the Great Depression, and set a meeting early Thursday to begin drafting a bipartisan bill.

Bush acknowledged in a prime time television address Wednesday night that the bailout would be a "tough vote" for lawmakers.

"Without immediate action by Congress, America could slip into a financial panic, and a distressing scenario would unfold," Bush said as he worked to resurrect the unpopular bailout package.

The president's dire warning came not long after he invited Obama and McCain, one of whom will inherit the economic mess in four months, as well as key congressional leaders to a White House meeting on Thursday to work on a compromise.

Bush strongly urged Congress to act quickly to pass the plan, warning Americans in his 12-minute speech that failing to act fast risked dire economic consequences such as disappearing retirement savings, rising foreclosures, lost jobs and closed businesses.

With the administration's original proposal considered dead in Congress—even McCain called it flawed—top House leaders issued an upbeat statement late Wednesday saying there was progress toward revised legislation that could pass.

"We are committed to continuing to work cooperatively and on a bipartisan basis to safeguard the interests of the American taxpayers," said Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio.

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, expressed optimism that Congress could work through the weekend and pass the measure, possibly by the time markets open on Monday.

AP

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, left, accompanied by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008, before the House Financial Services Committee.

Obama rebuffs McCain's call to delay debate

AMERICA VOTES

NEW YORK (AP)—The economic crisis and raw politics threatened to derail the first presidential debate as John McCain challenged Barack Obama to delay Friday's forum and unite to help Washington fix the financial mess. Obama rebuffed his GOP rival, saying the next president needs to "deal with more than one thing at once."

The White House rivals maneuvered Wednesday to claim the leadership role in resolving the economic turmoil that has overshadowed their campaign. Obama said he would proceed with his debate preparations while consulting with bailout negotiators and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. McCain said he would stop all advertising, fundraising and other campaign events and return to Washington and work for a bipartisan solution.

"It's my belief that this is exactly the time when the American people need to hear from the person who, in approximately 40 days, will be responsible for dealing with this mess," Obama said at a news conference in Clearwater, Fla. "It's going to be part of the president's job to deal with more than one thing at once."

But McCain said they must focus on a bipartisan solution as the Bush administration's $700 billion bailout proposal seemed headed for defeat. If not, McCain said ominously, credit will dry up, people will no longer be able to buy homes, life savings will be at stake and businesses will not have enough money to pay workers.

"It has become clear that no consensus has developed to support the administration's proposal," McCain said. "I do not believe that the plan on the table will pass as it currently stands, and we are running out of time."

President Bush invited both candidates to the White House on Thursday, along with congressional leaders, in hopes of securing a bill to rescue the economy.

Obama effigy found hanging from Ore. campus tree

NEWBERG, Ore. (AP)—Officials of a small Christian university say a life-size cardboard reproduction of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama was hung from a tree on the campus, an act with racial undertones that outraged students and school leaders alike.

George Fox University President Robin Baker said a custodian discovered the effigy early Tuesday and removed it. University spokesman Rob Felton said Wednesday that the commercially produced reproduction had been suspended from the branch of a tree with fishing line around the neck.

Taped to the cardboard cutout of the black senator from Illinois was a message targeting participants in Act Six, a scholarship program geared toward increasing the number of minority and low-income students at several Christian colleges, mostly in the Northwest.

The message read, "Act Six reject."

The disturbing image found near the heart of the campus recalled the days of lynchings of blacks and was all the more incongruous at a university founded by Quaker pioneers in 1891. Felton said he had been at the school since he enrolled two decades ago, and "I've never experienced or heard of any type of overt racial act."

At the end of the college's regular chapel service Wednesday, Baker told students he was "disheartened and outraged."

"It has been my dream to establish a university that more adequately represents the kingdom of God," he said. "This act causes some to question our commitment."

Baker added, "What I've learned is we still have work to do."

Administrators at the university said Wednesday they do not know who hung the effigy, which Felton said few people saw before it was taken down.

Newberg police Sgt. Tim Weaver said officials are working with the university to find out who was responsible. He also said the police department has notified the U.S. Secret Service, although it's not clear yet whether the act was a crime.

Palin says US could face another Great Depression

NEW YORK (AP)—Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin said Wednesday that the United States could be headed for another Great Depression if Congress doesn't act on the financial crisis.

Palin made the comment in an interview with "CBS Evening News" anchor Katie Couric while visiting New York to meet foreign leaders for the first time in her political career. As Palin sought to establish her credentials in world affairs, first lady Laura Bush said Palin lacked sufficient foreign policy experience but was "a quick study."

Recent surveys have shown that Palin's popularity, while still strong, has begun to fade.

Earlier this month, an Associated Press-Yahoo News poll showed more people viewing Palin favorably than unfavorably, 47 percent to 28 percent. But an ABC News-Washington Post poll released Wednesday showed that in a two-week period, the number seeing Palin positively dropped 6 percentage points while 10 points more see her unfavorably. On Monday, a CNN-Opinion Research Corp. poll said her favorable rating dropped 4 points and her unfavorable rating rose 8 points over two weeks.

Palin has been in New York this week for a series of meetings with foreign leaders, part of an effort by Republican John McCain's presidential campaign to counter criticism that the former small-town mayor lacks the experience to be vice president, let alone president in an emergency.

The CBS interview was just her third major interview in nearly four weeks on the GOP presidential ticket.

Conn. Democrats delay a plan to censure Lieberman

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut Democrats, angry that Sen. Joe Lieberman is campaigning for the Republican presidential candidate and criticizing his own party's nominee, agreed Wednesday to circulate a resolution to censure the veteran politician but won't consider acting on it until after Election Day.

The state party's central committee Wednesday agreed to send copies of the resolution to every Democratic town committee in the state. The resolution condemns Lieberman for speaking at the Republicans' convention and backing John McCain.

Party officials said the group plans to get input from the town officials and revisit the issue in December.

"When we have someone who is our elected senator, as a Democrat, standing in front of not only a national, but an international audience, speaking in support of Sen. McCain, it was the final straw for me personally," said Audrey Blondin, a 30-year party veteran who helped to put together the resolution.

Lieberman was re-elected to the Senate as an independent after losing the Democratic primary in 2006 to businessman Ned Lamont. While he calls himself an "independent Democrat" in the Senate, he remains a registered Democrat and has said he has no plans to change his party affiliation.

Lieberman was the Democratic nominee for vice president in 2000 and ran for the party's presidential nomination in 2004.

Ike-battered Galveston allows residents to return

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Ten days after Hurricane Ike, this devastated beach town reopened to residents Wednesday with stern warnings about what still lurks on the island—rotting cattle carcasses, snakes and swarms of mosquitoes—and what isn't there: drinking water, reliable electricity, medical care or sewer service.

After spending hours in traffic that backed up for 10 miles, some residents found their homes in ruins.

"I wasn't prepared for this," taxi driver Patricia Davis said as she swatted away mosquitoes and surveyed the remains of her apartment, which had its entrance blocked by collapsed walls, wrecked furniture and sodden clothing.

City officials hoped most of the 45,000 residents who fled before the Sept. 13 storm would stay away until more repairs could be made.

"We didn't promise paradise when you came back here. We've got a lot of work to do. You've got a lot of work to do," City Manager Steve LeBlanc said Wednesday.

The city has limited drinking water, few working sewers, limited electricity and minimal medical facilities. Officials extended the disaster declaration for 90 days.

What Galveston does have is ripening in the tropical heat: Rotting food in piles of debris where houses once stood, millions of mosquitoes and an abundance of snakes. The carcasses of cattle that drowned during the storm are too badly decomposed to be moved; they'll rot in the fields just outside the city limits.

People were warned not to return without tetanus shots—or rat bait.

AP

Brenda Roby, left, hugs her neighbor Donna Hanson, as they stand in what remains of Donna's home beside Offatts Bayou in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008, in Galveston, Texas.

Documents: Ivins bragged he knew anthrax killer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bruce Ivins, the Army scientist accused of carrying out the 2001 anthrax attacks, e-mailed himself last year saying he knew who the killer was, according to court documents unsealed Wednesday.

AP

Bruce E. Ivins, a biodefense researcher is seen in 2003, at Fort Detrick, Md.

"Yes! Yes! Yes!!!!!!! I finally know who mailed the anthrax letters in the fall of 2001. I've pieced it together!" Ivins wrote in the e-mail dated Sept. 7, 2007, according to an FBI affidavit

"I'm not looking forward to everybody getting dragged through the mud, but at least it will all be over," Ivins allegedly wrote. "Finally! I should have it TOTALLY nailed down within the month. I should have been a private eye!!!!"

The e-mail did not say who Ivins thought was the anthrax killer.

Ivins committed suicide in July as prosecutors prepared to charge him in the mailings that killed five people and sickened 17 others. The e-mail was signed "bruce" and sent from an America Online address by the name of "KingBadger7." Authorities said it was one of at least six e-mail addresses registered to Ivins.

The FBI affidavit was included in the final batch of court documents to be released by the government that shows how prosecutors built their case against Ivins.

Ivins' lawyer, Paul Kemp, maintains Ivins was innocent and said scientist would have been cleared if the case had gone to trial. "The absence of any information from the search warrants that conclusively finds he did it only confirm that," Kemp said Wednesday evening.

He said the September 2007 e-mail is merely Ivins "attempting to explain who could have had access to the (anthrax) beaker," Kemp said. "He had his own views about who might have been capable of this thing. And he explained that to the FBI."

Fla. jury convicts teen in killing of classmate

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A teenager who mental health experts say wanted to become a serial killer was convicted Wednesday of luring his 14-year-old friend to a middle school bathroom and stabbing him to death in 2004.

A jury deliberated for about 3 1/2 hours before convicting Michael Hernandez, now 18, of first-degree murder in the slaying and of the attempted murder of another classmate.

The defense argued Hernandez was insane and not criminally responsible for luring Jaime Gough into the bathroom at Miami's Southwood Middle School, then slitting his throat and stabbing him at least 42 times.

But prosecutors said he was a smart student who wore a windbreaker and latex gloves for the attack in an effort to keep blood off his clothes.

When the verdict was read, Hernandez showed no reaction but was nervously moving his foot under the defense table.

His mother, Kathy, held her head in her hands and openly wept when she heard the guilty verdict. She left the courtroom without talking to reporters.

The parents of the victim, Jorge and Maria Gough, cried and hugged one another.

"He was guilty from day one," Jorge Gough said. "It's a closure. That's what we wanted to do for four years. It's been a long, long four years. But finally it's over."

Study: Extending time of stroke drug treatment OK

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stroke sufferers can still benefit from clot-busting medicine even if they receive it an hour or so beyond the current three-hour window after symptoms start, an important new study suggests.

The finding could potentially extend treatment to thousands more people each year and prevent many from being left disabled. However, it does not change long-standing advice that stroke victims seek immediate help if they feel sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg.

"Don't wait," said Dr. Larry Goldstein, director of Duke University's stroke center and a spokesman for the American Stroke Association. "If you think you are having symptoms, call 911."

The study by European doctors found that the clot dissolver could safely be given up to 4 1/2 hours after the start of symptoms. Results were published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Stroke is the nation's No. 3 killer and the leading cause of disability such as paralysis or speech loss. More than 700,000 Americans suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year and more than 150,000 die. The most common strokes result from a blood clot blocking an artery supplying blood to the brain, starving brain cells of oxygen.

The best treatment is giving patients the drug TPA to break up the clot and open the artery. A large federal study in 1995 showed that people fared better when given the drug within three hours of the start of a stroke. Beyond that, studies have shown the drug can raise the risk of dangerous bleeding in the brain and may not be as effective.

ACROSS THE NATION

States, medical groups oppose abortion rule

WASHINGTON (AP)—Several medical associations and 13 state attorneys general voiced their opposition Wednesday to a proposed federal rule that they fear would open the door for hospitals and physicians to deny access to contraception. In late August, the Bush administration proposed stronger job protections for doctors and other health care workers who refuse to participate in abortions because of religious or moral objections. Abortion foes called it a victory for the First Amendment, but abortion rights supporters said they feared the rule could stretch the definition of abortion to include birth control. The public comment period for the proposed rule ends Thursday. As the deadline nears, opponents have orchestrated a highly public call for the administration to rescind the rule. While the regulation states that it would not limit access to health care, groups such as the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics disagreed.

Calif. religious leaders push for gay marriage ban

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hundreds of pastors have called on their congregations to fast and pray for passage of a ballot measure in November that would put an end to gay marriage in California The collective act of piety, starting Wednesday and culminating three days before the election in a revival for as many as 100,000 people at the San Diego Chargers' stadium, comes as church leaders across California put people, money and powerful words behind Proposition 8. Some pastors around the state and nation are encouraging their flocks to forgo solid food for up to 40 days in the biblical tradition. Jim Garlow, the pastor of the evangelical Skyline Church in San Diego County, said he expects up to 100 young adults to spend five-plus weeks on his campus, subsisting on soup, juice and the promise of societal salvation.

Kidnapped Mo. boy recounts captivity in interview

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A Missouri teenager who was kidnapped and held for four years said he figured his days were numbered when his abductor decided to take another boy, according to transcripts from a television interview released Wednesday to The Associated Press. Shawn Hornbeck, now 17, and his parents recounted their story during an interview with CBS News' "48 Hours Mystery," in which he discusses details of his captivity for the first time. "The days got slimmer," he said. "'Cause it's a replacement. When you get a new car, what do you do with the old one? You usually get rid of it, right?" Shawn was 11 when he was kidnapped by Michael Devlin in 2002 near his home in Washington County, Mo. He and Ben Ownby, another kidnapped boy, were found in the suburban St. Louis apartment of Michael Devlin, who is now serving life sentences in prison for kidnapping and abusing the boys. But Shawn said death didn't scare him. His greatest fear over the more than four years of captivity was that he would never see his family again, he said.

Asia

China tainted milk crisis triggers global recalls

BEIJING (AP)—An industrial chemical that made its way into China's dairy supplies and that authorities blame in the death of four babies has turned up in numerous Chinese-made exports abroad—from candies to yogurt to rice balls.

British supermarket chain Tesco removed Chinese-made White Rabbit Creamy Candies off its shelves as a precaution amid reports that samples of the milk candy in Singapore and New Zealand had tested positive for melamine—an industrial chemical used to make plastics and fertilizer.

The Shanghai government's quality watchdog was investigating whether the chemical was in the candy, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted government spokesman Chen Qiwei as saying. The government also urged a Bright Food Group Co. subsidiary to stop selling the candy, pull it off store shelves and recall exports that are likely to have problems, it said.

The subsidiary, Guan Sheng Yuan, has been making White Rabbit candies for almost 50 years, with exports to Southeast Asia and Chinese communities overseas.

A man who answered the phone at the company said Bright Food Group is having a meeting to discuss what to do next after reports the candy had tested positive for melamine. He did not give his name, saying the company has yet to appoint a spokesman.

Chinese baby formula tainted with the chemical has been blamed for the deaths of four infants and the illnesses of 53,000 others in China. Health experts say ingesting a small amount of the chemical poses no danger, but melamine can cause kidney stones and lead to kidney failure. Infants are particularly vulnerable.

More than a dozen countries have banned or recalled Chinese dairy products. One of the latest was France, which does not import Chinese dairy products but has halted imports of Chinese biscuits, candy or other foods that could contain Chinese dairy derivatives. The French government described the measure as a precaution.

South Korea announced late Wednesday that it was banning imports of Chinese-made food products containing powdered milk. The food watchdog Korea Food and Drug Administration said tests found high levels of melamine in two biscuit products imported from China and Hong Kong.

N. Korea orders UN nuclear inspectors from plant

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—North Korea moved closer to restarting its nuclear arms program Wednesday, barring U.N. inspectors from its main plutonium reprocessing plant and announcing it will reactivate the facility that provided the material for its atomic test blast.

The move fed fears about a resurgent nuclear North Korea, but there also is speculation it might be motivated by negotiating strategy. Pyongyang could use the year needed to restart its sole reprocessing plant to wrest more concessions from the U.S. and others seeking to end the atomic program.

Still, coming amid reports leader Kim Jong Il suffered a stroke, the nuclear reversal is raising nervousness about a breakdown in the international attempt to coax the North out of its confrontational isolation—a point addressed Wednesday by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

U.S. diplomats are talking with other nations involved in bargaining with the North at this week's meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

Any move by Pyongyang to restart its nuclear program "would only deepen its isolation," Rice warned. "We strongly urge the North to reconsider these steps and come back immediately into compliance with its obligations" under a disarmament-for-aid agreement reached in six-nation talks.

Hours earlier, the International Atomic Energy Agency announced that North Korean officials "informed the IAEA inspectors that they plan to introduce nuclear material to the reprocessing plant in one week's time."

David Albright, a nuclear expert with the Institute for Science and International Security, said restarting the reprocessor could take longer if North Korea wants to run tests.

"It's a plant that handles a lot of liquids. They are reattaching a lot of equipment. They have to make sure they reattached them correctly and did the welds," Albright said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Explosion rattles Yangon amid tight security

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—An explosion went off in Myanmar's main city Thursday, witnesses said, amid tight security to mark the one-year anniversary of the junta's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. Three people appeared to have been lightly wounded by the morning blast near Yangon's City Hall, said witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity fearing reprisals from the junta. The explosion occurred at a bus stop near the City Hall, which was central to street protests led by Buddhist monks a year ago. Riot police poured into the area and sealed it off with yellow tape, adding to the already tight security in place around the city since late August. The junta, which has been in power since 1962, sparked global outrage last year when it showed it would kill its own people in order to maintain power.

Bombs kill 2 policemen, 1 civilian in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Officials say separate bomb attacks in southern Afghanistan have killed two policemen and a civilian. Matiullah Khan, Kandahar's provincial police chief, says a remote-controled bomb struck a police vehicle Wednesday in Spin Boldak district, killing two officers. Mohammad Gul, a police officer in Kandahar, says another bomb targeted a bus full of police trainers in Kandahar city Thursday, killing a civilian passerby. The bomb missed the bus. More than 4,600 people—mostly militants—have died so far this year in insurgency-related violence in Afghanistan.

Filipino WWII veterans seek equality from US

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Something is better than nothing, Filipino veterans said Wednesday after hearing they could get lump-sum benefit payments from the U.S. government more than six decades after they fought alongside American forces during World War II. But they also said they will continue to press Washington to put them on par with their U.S. comrades-in-arms, claiming they have been short-changed and that Congress is dragging its feet as remaining survivors die of old age. The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday passed the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008" that would make one-time payments of $15,000 to Filipinos who are U.S. citizens and $9,000 to non-U.S. Filipino veterans. "Whatever the Americans give, the Filipinos will receive," said retired Col. Francisco San Miguel, secretary general of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines. He added, however, they "will not stop seeking what is rightfully due to Filipinos. We will still seek equal treatment."

World

Bush, Iraqi leader thank a dwindling coalition

AP

President Bush makes a statement on Free Trade, with Western Hemisphere leaders, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008, at the Council of the Americas in New York.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The coalition of the willing that went to war in Iraq is becoming the coalition of the disappearing.

President Bush and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani formally thanked the diminishing band of allies at a meeting Tuesday night on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. The low-key, low-profile gathering stood in stark contrast to the early days of Bush's administration, when hot debates over the war formed the centerpiece of the annual global forum.

"It's a pleasure to be with nations that have helped your democracy grow," Bush told Talabani in a room packed with representatives of more than two dozen countries that have contributed in Iraq. "A lot of people around the world have made sacrifices along with the Iraqi people to enable a country to emerge from the shadows of tyranny - become a hopeful example for nations around the world."

At its height, the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq included 50,000 troops from more than three dozen countries other than the United States. But by the next 90 days or so, that global coalition will shrink to just a handful of nations, according to White House advisers.

The White House says that isn't because international support is dwindling, but because security gains and the increased capability of Iraqi forces allow outside forces to do more with less.

"Many of the troops of the countries represented here have returned home, but they have done so on success," Bush said at the reception.

Iraq is drafting bilateral agreements with the U.S. and other countries to replace a U.N. mandate that authorizes their presence now but which expires at year's end. The White House has not disclosed the names of countries likely to remain in Iraq after the expiration of the U.N. mandate, saying it's up to the Iraqi government to seal each agreement on its own.

Finland bewildered by deadly school shootings

KAUHAJOKI, Finland (AP)—This sparsely populated nation near the Arctic Circle has long clung to an ethos of rugged individualism where, unlike in most of Western Europe, the right to bear arms is deeply ingrained in the culture.

Stunned by the second school massacre in a year, however, Finns are questioning their gun laws and other social problems such as rampant alcoholism and high suicide rates.

Leadingnewspaperssplashed the word "Why?" on their front pages, seeking answers into what drove Matti Saari, a 22-year-old student with no previous criminal record, to kill 10 people in a shooting spree at his vocational college before killing himself.

"It's a time for very serious self-reflection," said Bishop Simo Peura, who held a service for shocked residents of Kauhajoki after Tuesday's massacre. "We have to ask ourselves what our values are and what kind of society we want to live in this country."

In an editorial, the newspaper Hufvudstadsbladet lamented the damage to the nation's image.

"So we live in a country which not only stands out for domestic violence and other types of physical violence," the paper said. "It is also reaching the top of the world in regard to mass murders in schools."

AP interview: Mugabe urges West to lift sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Zimbabwe's president said Wednesday he sees no obstacles to carrying out a power-sharing agreement with rivals and hopes it will lead the West to ease sanctions, which he blamed for devastating the country's economy.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the 84-year-old Robert Mugabe was sharp, quick and animated—and made clear he is determined to remain president despite what he said were efforts by Britain and the United States to oust him.

"They are waiting for a day when this man, this evil man, called Robert Mugabe is no longer in control," he said. "And I don't know when that day is coming."

So he has no thoughts of resigning?

"No - or a thought of dying," Mugabe chuckled.

Mugabe, who is to address the U.N. General Assembly on Thursday, dismissed Western reports that the Sept. 15 power-sharing deal could fall apart "because I don't know of any hitch."

Under the agreement, Mugabe remains president but is supposed to cede some of the powers he has wielded for nearly three decades in the southern African country. Long-simmering and bitter differences as well as the nation's economic collapse, though, have put the deal under intense pressure.

Mugabe said Wednesday the only outstanding issue is deciding on four of the 31 Cabinet posts, and the negotiations are continuing in Harare while he is in New York. He declined to say which posts are still being discussed.

Off the Wall

World's shortest man, leggiest woman meet

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman mistakes elk's call for a fight, calls cops

PHOENIX (AP)—It's a haunting, high-pitched scream that is commonly misunderstood by newcomers to Arizona's high country and the state's city dwellers. It's called bugling, and male elk do it to attract females and scare off other males so they can mate. The season just began and usually runs through the beginning of October. Those who've never heard an elk bugle often get confused and call authorities. A woman who lives in Mesa Del, a subdivision just northeast of Payson, called the Gila County Sheriff's Office early Monday morning to report a fight, saying she heard a lot of screaming. Lt. Tim Scott said responding deputies quickly realized the woman was really hearing elk. Scott said he's heard bugling at his home just south of Payson for the past five nights.

NJ callers dialing Dems get sex chat offer instead

NEWTON, N.J. (AP)—A misprint in a telephone book has led to some callers dialing a phone sex service while trying to reach a New Jersey political organization. A listing for the Sussex County Democratic Committee in Embarq's white pages sent people to a sultry female voice inviting them to pay for sex chat. Embarq spokesman Glenn Lewis told The New Jersey Herald of Newton that a transposition error caused the last three digits of the Democrats' phone number to be misprinted. He said the listing has been corrected in Embarq's directory assistance database. The organization's 800 number listed in the book's yellow pages was correct.

Police: Man who wanted picture gets 'train rash'

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—Police say a man who wanted his picture taken next to a moving train suffered "train rash" but no serious injuries when he got too close to the train. Police Sgt. Jeff Skuza said the 34-year-old man and two friends were in Fargo for a conference. He said they went around the security gates at a train crossing so he could have his picture taken. Skuza said the man thought the picture would be better if he got closer to the train. But he stumbled and the train caught his back, ripping his shirt and pants. Skuza called it "a bad case of train rash." He also said alcohol was a factor. Police did not release the man's name. Skuza said he was treated and released from an area hospital.

Woman accused of beating fiance at prenup party

POULSBO, Wash. (AP)—A Poulsbo woman was jailed after being accused of beating up her fiance at their prenuptial party. Kitsap County sheriff's deputies said the woman's 12-year-old son told her he saw her fiance kissing one of her women friends early Thursday morning. Deputies said the woman, 31, gave her friends the boot, told her fiance to leave, too, and then started hitting him in the face. When he left the house, they say, she tackled him football-style, punched him some more, threw his watch into the bushes and broke his glasses. Responding to a 911 call from her son, deputies arrested the woman for investigation of fourth-degree assault. Sheriff's Lt. Kathy Collings said the woman was released from jail later Thursday. There's no word on whether the marriage took place.

Rat bite wakes NY firefighter sleeping at station

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—An upstate New York fire department smells rats after one of the rodents bit the nose of a dozing firefighter. Glens Falls acting Mayor John Diamond says the firefighter awoke Saturday with a pain and saw blood and "two little spike marks" on his nose. Officials say the firefighter has been given a tetanus shot and antibiotics and is back on the job. The fire station will be on a reduced schedule as an exterminator and state health officials work to remedy the apparent rat infestation. Meanwhile, the station's sleeping and dining quarters are closed.

Man accused of stealing empty beer truck

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—Police arrested a 21-year-old man for allegedly stealing a beer truck, then dumping the vehicle after determining it contained no cargo. Police arrested the man on Monday on suspicion of felony theft of an automobile. Bail was set at $5,000 cash or bond on Tuesday. Authorities say a deputy discovered the beer truck stuck in the mud along the Wild Rice River. Sgt. Jeff Skuza said, "He'd stolen it thinking he'd get some beer, and it was completely empty." Police identified the suspect through a tip from his friend.

LONDON (AP)—Trafalgar Square routinely serves as a stage for mimes, jugglers and other acts, but the tourist attraction drew an exceptionally curious crowd Tuesday when the shortest man who can walk met the woman with the longest legs.

He Pingping, of China, was born with a type of dwarfism. He, 20, stands precisely 2 feet 5.37 inches tall.

The pair met to publicize the release of "Guinness World Records 2009." This year's version of the popular book is due out Wednesday.

He called Svetlana Pankratova's legs "very beautiful."

Pankratova, 36, who is Russian but lives in Spain, has legs that are nearly 52 inches long, or more than 4 feet long. Her upper body has nearly typical proportions, giving her a giraffe-like appearance.

Dressed in a bright-blue minidress and low-heeled pumps, Pankratova, 36, said she liked her legs, though they can complicate things. "It's hard to find clothes, especially pants," she said.

At just over 6-foot-4, Pankratova isn't the tallest woman on record. Sandy Allen, of Shelbyville, Indiana, who died recently, held that title at 7 feet, 7 inches, according to the book. The book said He is the shortest man who can walk.

The latest edition of the book lists pop star Britney Spears as the most-searched person on the Internet and the television show "Lost" as the most-downloaded show of all time.

The book has been around for half a century. About 3.5 million copies are sold each year, according to editor-in-chief Craig Glenday.

AP

He Pingping from Inner Mongolia, China's autonomous region, the world's smallest man sits underneath Svetlana Pankratova from Russia, the Queen of Longest Legs, as they pose at Trafalgar Square in London, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

Fla. judge rules saggy pants law unconstitutional

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A judge has decided a law banning sagging pants in this town is unconstitutional after a teenager spent a night in jail on accusations he exposed too much underwear.

Julius Hart, 17, was charged last week after an officer said he spotted the teenager riding his bicycle with 4 to 5 inches of blue-and-black boxer shorts revealed.

Hart's public defender, Carol Bickerstaff, urged a judge Monday to strike down the sagging pants law, telling him: "Your honor, we now have the fashion police."

Circuit Judge Paul Moyle ruled that the law was unconstitutional based on "the limited facts" of the case. Technically, however, the charge hasn't been dropped yet: a new arraignment awaits Hart on Oct. 5.

Voters in Riviera Beach approved the law in March. A first offense for sagging pants carries a $150 fine or community service, and habitual offenders face the possibility of jail time.

Bickerstaff said she wants the city to drop the law - regardless of whether anyone dislikes low-riding pants.

"The first time I saw this particular fashion, I disliked it," she told the judge. "And then I realized I'm getting old."

Man charged after allegedly passing gas toward cop

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—A West Virginia man who police said passed gas and fanned it toward a patrolman has been charged with battery on a police officer.

Jose A. Cruz, 34, of Clarksburg, was pulled over early Tuesday for driving without headlights, police said. According to the criminal complaint, Cruz smelled of alcohol, had slurred speech and failed three field sobriety tests before he was handcuffed and taken to a police station for a breathalyzer test.

As Patrolman T.E. Parsons prepared the machine, Cruz scooted his chair toward Parsons, lifted his leg and "passed gas loudly," the complaint said.

Cruz, according to complaint, then fanned the gas toward the officer. "The gas was very odorous and created contact of an insulting or provoking nature with Patrolman Parsons," the complaint alleged.

He was also charged with driving under the influence, driving without headlights and two counts of obstruction.

Cruz acknowledged passing gas, but said he didn't move his chair toward the officer nor aim gas at the patrolman. He said he had an upset stomach at the time, but police denied his request to go to the bathroom when he first arrived at the station.

"I couldn't hold it no more," he said.

He also denied being drunk and uncooperative as the police complaint alleged. He added he was upset at being prepared for a breathalyzer test while having an asthma attack. The police statement said he later resisted being secured for a trip to a hospital that he requested for asthma treatment.

Cruz said the officers thought the gas incident was funny when it happened and laughed about it with him. "This is ridiculous," he said. "I could be facing time."

Michigan couple tie the knot at funeral home

ST. JOSEPH TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—It generally has flowers, and a clergyman is often present, but this was a first for a local funeral home.

Jason and Rachael Storm held their wedding at Starks and Menchinger Family Funeral Home, where he is a funeral director.

Their reception, including dinner and dancing, also was held at the funeral home.

"This room is usually filled with sadness and contemplation, but today it is filled with joy and celebration," the Rev. Greg Prather said at the start of Saturday's ceremony.

Jason Storm, 24, doesn't see much difference between getting married in a church or the funeral home. "I look at it as, if you go to a church and get married, how many caskets do you think have been rolled down that aisle?" he told The Herald-Palladium of St. Joseph.

Rachael Storm, also 24, said the location did "not creep me out at all."

"I'm very accustomed to what he does. The one thing I'm very much about is being unique," she said.

Not everyone was entirely comfortable with the idea.

Rachael Storm said some invited guests initially refused to attend, but the couple assured family and friends there would not be any caskets or corpses in the room.

Science & Technology

Google unveils its answer to the iPhone

By JESSICA GUYNN and MICHELLE QUINN
(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO—Google Inc. on Tuesday showed off a cellphone that could provide the first real challenge to Apple Inc.'s iPhone: a mass-market device with a sharp touch screen and slide-out keyboard that brings the experience of mobile Web-surfing closer to that of a personal computer.

When it goes on sale in U.S. stores Oct. 22, the $179 G1 from HTC Corp. will be the first of many expected gadgets, from a wide variety of manufacturers, that run Google's new mobile operating system and have many of the Internet giant's services built in.

The G1, which works on the T-Mobile USA network, marks another salvo in the intensifying cellphone wars as tech titans try to upend the wireless market to seize a major business opportunity.

The likes of Google, Apple and Microsoft Corp. are betting they can make billions of dollars by selling software and delivering ads for the new generation of increasingly powerful mobile gadgets.

"The cellphone is the world's most popular device, and it is going to be the world's most popular way to access the Web," NPD group analyst Ross Rubin said.

For these tech giants, staking a claim on the mobile Web is a matter of self-interest and preservation. Cellphones outnumber personal computers roughly three to one.

When it comes to connecting people to the Web, cellphones still lag far behind. But the iPhone, BlackBerry and other so-called smartphones are changing that, keeping their owners connected wherever they are. Research firm IDC predicts that by 2012, more mobile devices will be surfing the Web than will computers.

Those gadgets could become lucrative vehicles for selling ads, especially ones targeting cellphone owners with shops and services near their precise locations.

Google executives predict the company will eventually make more money on the mobile Web than on the traditional Web. Investment bank Collins Stewart says it expects the search giant to add $5 billion in revenue from cellphone ads by 2011.

AP
The T-Mobile G1 Android-powered phone, the first cell phone with the operating system designed by Google Inc., is shown Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008 in New York.

The G1 connects to Wi-Fi hotspots, features a keyboard and trackball and has such features as a built-in compass, so when a user looking at Google Maps turns, the image does too.

But analysts say HTC and T-Mobile lack the marketing firepower for the G1 to conquer the smartphone market. The BlackBerry, made by Research in Motion and supported by all the major wireless carriers, dominates the corporate part of the market, while Apple's iPhone, which runs on the No. 1 AT&T network, has quickly become a consumer hit.

But Google, based in Mountain View, Calif., hopes it's just the beginning. Manufacturers such as Samsung and Motorola Inc. are also working on phones that run Google's Android operating system for carriers such as T-Mobile and Sprint Nextel Corp. Sprint and China Mobile were supposed to launch Android phones in coming months but hit delays.

"We set out to build Android so that we could enable a lot more people to access the Internet," said Andy Rubin, Google's senior director of mobile platforms. "We want to make the entire Web experience as good as possible on the small screen."

T-Mobile, the No. 4 U.S. carrier, raced to become the first provider to release a Google-powered phone to help it better compete against AT&T, Verizon Wireless and Sprint."We tried to build a mass-market device that is affordable to consumers," said Cole Brodman, T-Mobile's chief technology and innovation officer. "We think it has got universal appeal."

If Brodman is right, "Android could be a threat to all," said Needham & Co. analyst Charlie Wolf.

It was Apple, not Google, that incited the big revolution on the tiny screen when it launched the iPhone in June 2007.

In addition to making calls, the iPhone lets consumers send and receive e-mail and instant messages, play music and videos and surf the Web. IPhone owners marveled that they could check their bank accounts or decide on a movie at the beach.

Brent Bushnell, who works for a Los Angeles-based software company, recently landed in Boston and jumped on a train without thinking. He pulled up the map on his iPhone to figure out where he was headed and find his hotel. "I boot-strapped my way without missing a beat," he said.

Study: Work e-mail use creeps into off hours

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Soto, general manager of an advertising firm in Philadelphia, has a complicated relationship with his BlackBerry e-mail phone.

He felt "awful" and out of touch when he was without a BlackBerry for two days because his unit fell overboard when he was sailing on the Chesapeake.

At the same time, if he could turn back the clock five years, to before the BlackBerry took over corporate America, he would do it "in a minute."

"If everybody also threw their BlackBerrys away, I would too," he said, chuckling. "The only problem is, in my industry, it makes me more competitive."

A study published Wednesday by the Pew Internet and American Life Project shows that workers in general have mixed feelings about the increased use of e-mail and the Internet in the last few years.

In a survey of 2,134 adults in March and April, 96 percent used e-mail, the Internet or cell phones. Of them, 80 percent said these technologies have improved their ability to do their jobs, and 58 percent said these tools have given them more control over when to work.

But 46 percent also said these devices increase the demands that they work more hours, and 49 percent said that the technologies make it harder to disconnect from work when they should be off.

Half of the respondents who were employed and had e-mail said they check their work e-mail on weekends, and a full 22 percent said they checked office e-mail "often" on the weekends, up from 16 percent who said the same thing in 2002.

Much of the increase can be attributed to increased use of wireless e-mail devices like the BlackBerry, made by Research in Motion Ltd. Of those who have such gadgets, 40 percent say they often check work e-mail on weekends. A quarter often check in even when on vacation.

"The scariest thing was when I was on vacation a couple of years ago, and my BlackBerry rang. I was in the middle of the Sahara Desert!" Soto said.

Checking work e-mail is considered much more important for people making more than $75,000 a year than it is for low earners, just as high earners are more likely to have longer hours. Also those who work for large corporations are much more likely to be checking their e-mail "constantly" at work, compared to those who work for smaller companies.

For workers in general, it's unclear whether e-mail alone is increasing the amount of work. Other studies show that people have worked roughly the same number of hours every week for the last two decades. In the Pew study, 17 percent said e-mail had increased their work hours, while 6 percent said the opposite—that e-mail reduced the time they had to work.

The survey was conducted by phone, and the respondents were called randomly. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 4 percent.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: We recently upgraded to a digital TV, which leaves us with an old analog set nobody wants to buy. And we're told we can't throw it out—what do we do?

A: It's true that old cathode-ray-tube TVs, along with many other electronic items, contain a banquet of toxic chemicals, such as lead and mercury, that make tossing them into a garden-variety landfill a bad idea. These sets require special disposal methods to isolate these toxins and recover whatever materials can be recycled for future use.

The traditional way to accomplish this is to let your county or city's hazardous-waste program handle it. Most local governments have "e-cycling" programs that accept old electronics and computers, either on designated dates or at a specific site. But you may pay for the privilege; for example, Arlington County, Va., charges $20 a set.

You can search for nearby government and private e-cycling options at a site run by the Consumer Electronics Association: mygreenelectronics.org.

Some manufacturers now offer "takeback" programs that allow consumers to return old products they made for free. See, for example, the programs of LG (us.lge.com/green), Samsung (samsung.com/recyclingdirect) and Sony (sony.com/recycle). But these programs' drop-off locations may not be convenient. LG has one in Merrifield, Va.; Sony's is in Lancaster, Pa.

Still another option comes from Best Buy, which is testing a takeback service. Stores in its Washington-Baltimore, San Francisco and Minnesota markets will accept sets as big as 32 inches for free; call ahead to confirm that a store is participating.

Don't be surprised to see more electronics firms launch takeback programs as the end of analog TV broadcasts—remember, that's Feb. 17—approaches.

TECH BYTES

MySpace tries to strike new chord in digital music

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Make room, iTunes. MySpace is hoping to shake up the digital music scene. In a bid to spruce up its popular online hangout, MySpace plans to flip the switch Thursday on a much-anticipated service that will give its roughly 120 million users free access to hundreds of thousands of songs from the world's largest recording labels. The catch: the music can be played only on personal computers connected to the Internet and listeners have to tolerate advertising splashed across the screen. Anyone who wants to transfer a song to a portable device like Apple Inc.'s iPod will have to buy the music through Amazon.com Inc.'s year-old downloading service, which sells songs for as little as 79 cents apiece.

Yahoo launches major upgrade to display ad system

NEW YORK (AP)—Yahoo Inc. launched a much-anticipated upgrade to its online advertising system Wednesday as it tries to bring to graphical display ads some of the innovations that powered Google Inc.'s rapid rise in search marketing. Playing to Yahoo's strengths in display ads and technology targeting pitches to users' interests, the new "Apt from Yahoo" platform will initially involve just the newspaper companies in a 2-year-old consortium led by Yahoo. The platform, renamed from Amp because of a trademark conflict, is intended to make it easier for advertisers and publishers to buy and sell display ads, borrowing self-service techniques that have made text-based search ads lucrative for Internet companies, especially Google.

VCs shovel another $28.7 million into Digg

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Digg Inc., an Internet startup that specializes in rating news stories, is making a little news of its own with a $28.7 million round of financing. The investment announced Wednesday should squelch recurring rumors of a sale to Google Inc. or Microsoft Corp. The money provides Digg with the means to pursue an international expansion and a hiring spree that is supposed to double its work force to 150 employees by the end of next year. Digg also plans to move into larger digs in San Francisco early next year and promote its brand more aggressively.

Dell to use greener LED displays for all laptops

Dell Inc. is switching to mercury-free light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, to illuminate laptop screens starting in mid-December, a move aimed making the computers softer on the environment and easier to recycle. Dell said the LED displays consume less energy (43 percent less for 15-inch screens) than ones lit with CCFL - cold cathode fluorescent lamps—the technology that is standard in Dell's existing notebook computers. The laptops shipping in December with LED screens represent about two-thirds of Dell's notebook sales, and include Latitude E models and two Precision mobile workstation models. The Round Rock, Texas-based company said LED backlit displays will be standard in at least 80 percent of the laptops it sells by the end of 2009 and in all its notebooks by the end of 2010. ***(AP)***

In Celebration of Her New Life

Teresa Reyes Rasa

October 23,1941 – September 21, 2008

Was called home to join our heavenly Father at the age of 66.

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of Her Husband, Ricardo Cruz Rasa.

She will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Gloria L. Pangelinan	Charlene & Chrsitopher Tudela (Christopher Shylene, Chael, Ajah) Jacob & Sherri Masga (Jaelah) Valerie & Heath Garcia Patrick & Desiree Masga (Isiaih)
Herculano R. and Joann I. Rasa	(Gloriana I. Rasa, Herculano I. Rasa Jr, Jowanda I. Rasa, Kalani I. Rasa, Dorian and Jolandin)
Joseph R. and Evelyn Rasa	(Don, Joesph Jr., Sean, Tahj)
Christine R. and Ray Anthony Pangelinan	(Brianna,Keinalyn Christy, Ray Anthony Jr.)
Francisco R. and Levie A. Rasa	(Thomas Jake S. Castro, Ricardo Alfonce A. Rasa, David John A. Rasa, Francisco A. Rasa Jr., Annika Zeta A. Rasa)
Bertha R. Recheked	(Teresa Yvette Rasa, Walden Tellei Recheked, Kinber Athena Rasa)
Ricardo R. Rasa and Matilde H. Bermudes	(Derick Rasa, Lance Rasa, Tiara Rasa, Isabelle Rasa)

We little knew that morning,
That God was going to call your name,
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us precious memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But God calls us one by one,
And the chain will link again.

In her new life she now joins her parents, brother and sister: Juan Delos Reyes, Maria Flores Borja, David Reyes and Olympia R. Sablan

Parents In-law: Joanes Rasa and Christina Roberto Cruz

Brothers-in-law: Ponciano C. Rasa and Alfonso C. Rasa

Her remains will lie in state at Nuestra Seniora dela Paz Memorial Chapel on Beach Road, Garapan. Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at Nuestra Señora de Soledad Church in Kagman.

On Monday, September 29, 2008, viewing will be at 8:00a.m. followed by the Responso Service at 9:00a.m. at Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 10:00A.M. AT NUESTRA SEÑORA DE SOLEDAD CHURCH IN KAGMAN. INTERMENT SERVICE WILL FOLLOW AT SANCTUARIO PAX MEMORIAL GARDENS IN KAGMAN.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family

Life & Style

The Tan - Oro Wedding

The newlyweds Samson and Glorybel pose the altar after the wedding ceremony.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Samson Tan of Palms Resort Saipan and Glorybel Oro of Gold's Gym were joined together as one couple during a wedding ceremony held Sept. 20, 2008, at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The reception was attended by hundred of relatives and friends, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial. It was held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

The couple want to extend their gratitude to their wedding director, Ernie Molina.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Glorybel takes a sniff of her dazzling handmade wedding bouquet.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Samson and Glorybel with secondary sponsors Susan Quibuyen, Ricky Cardinez, Clavel Calleja, Darwin Gonzalez, Liza Taylor and Brett Nelson, Matron of Honor Josephine Togawa-Plinske, Maid of honor Rochelle P. Jimenez, Bestman Marvin Valle and Argie Oro, Groomsmen Jesse Sablan and Frank Cepeda, Bride's maids Kathleen Salas and Kristina Springer, flower girls Angel Marie Tan and Irin Shaira Valle, ring bearer Devean Casey Gonzales and coin bearer Calvin Calma.

Samson Tan recites his vows.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Samson and Glorybel kiss outside the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa after the wedding ceremony.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Samson and Glorybel with their proud parents Pedro and Gloria Oro, Cesar and Cely Tan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Glorybel shows her wedding bouquet to daughter Angel.

For adult eyes only: The children cover their eyes so the new couple could kiss.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Samson and Glorybel pose with the whole wedding entourage.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Samson and Glorybel with principal sponsors: John Villagomez, Gregorio Sablan, Hiroyuki Saito, Yasunori Abe, Pedro Camacho, Genaro Inting, Jess Delos Santos, Cheryl Baka, Maria Luz Dolotina, Annette Ta, Norma Arnolds, Jeannette Camacho, Elizabeth Mendiola and Milagros Merjilla.

BEST SELLERS

Fiction

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.

American Wife, by Curtis Sittenfeld (Random House: $26) A fictional portrait of an American first lady loosely based on Laura Bush.

Breaking Dawn, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.

The Host, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Aliens take over the minds of humans.

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle a la Hamlet.

Eclipse, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.

The Book of Lies, by Brad Meltzer (Grand Central: $25.99) The ties between the creation of Superman and the story of Cain and Abel.

The Art of Racing in the Rain, by Garth Stein (Harper: $23.95) A dog's-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice.

The 19th Wife, by David Ebershoff (Random House: $26) Two narratives intertwine in this story of polygamy, past and present.

Dark Curse, by Christine Feehan (Berkley: $24.95) A Carpathian Dragonseeker seeks to uncover the source of her nightmares.

Nonfiction

1. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) Terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

Goodnight Bush, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.

When You Are Engulfed in Flames, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.

Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating and work.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled.

sTORI Telling, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) Old-school 90210 star tells all.

The Dark Side, by Jane Mayer (Doubleday: $27.50) The devastating results of the White House's amassing of power post-9/11.

Mother on Fire, by Sandra Tsing Loh (Crown: $23) A humorist's look at the state of schools, society and parenting in dysfunctional Los Angeles.

Hot, Flat, and Crowded, by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: $27.95) Solving overpopulation and global warming.

The Obama Nation, by Jerome R. Corsi (Threshold Editions: $28) The reasons against an Obama presidency and why he should be defeated.

((c) 2008 Los Angeles Times)

Bull market for books on economic disaster

NEW YORK (AP)—The crisis on Wall Street has been good for books about financial disasters.

"When the world seems to be ending, people still turn to books for help," says Nancy Sheppard, vice president of marketing at Viking, publisher of Kevin Phillips' "Bad Money: Reckless Finance, Failed Politics, and the Global Crisis of American Capitalism," one of several such works getting a boost in sales.

According to Viking, "Bad Money" sold 5,000 copies in the two days following Phillips' appearance Friday on Bill Moyers' PBS program. As of Wednesday night, the book was in the top 20 on Amazon.com's best-seller list.

Other popular titles include Naomi Klein's "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism," David M. Smick's "The World is Curved" and a classic from decades ago, John Kenneth Galbraith's "The Great Crash 1929."

Also Wednesday, Penguin Press announced that financial writer Roger Lowenstein is working on "Six Days That Shook the World," a "probing look" at this week's events from the author of "Buffett: The Making of an American Capitalist" and "When Genius Failed: The Rise and Fall of Long-Term Capital Management."

'Pan's Labyrinth' director writing vampire trilogy

NEW YORK (AP)—"Pan's Labyrinth" director Guillermo del Toro is collaborating with crime author Chuck Hogan on a trilogy of vampire novels, starting next summer with "The Strain."

"The idea is epic in scope," del Toro said in a statement issued Wednesday by publisher William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins. "The trilogy advances in unexpected ways and each book contains unique and surprising revelations about the history, physiology and lore of the vampiric race, tracing its roots all the way back to its Old Testament origins."

Del Toro

The 43-year-old Del Toro, whose films include the "Hellboy" movies, "Mimic" and "The Devil's Backbone," is best known for "Pan's Labyrinth," a surreal take on the Spanish Civil War that came out in 2006 and won three Academy Awards, for makeup, art direction and cinematography.

Hogan's novels include "The Blood Artists," "The Killing Moon" and "Prince of Thieves," which is being adapted into a feature film, starring and directed by Ben Affleck.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Margarita Manahane Benavente Seman

Affectionately known as "Nan Badig"

Born on February 3, 1934
Was called to her eternal rest by our Dear Lord on Monday, September 22, 2008

IN HER NEW LIFE, SHE NOW JOINS HER:
HUSBAND: *Jose Igibor (Maguines) Seman*
PARENTS: *Guillermo Villagomez Benavente & Carmen Manahane Benavente.*
Son: *Joseph B. Seman* **Great Grandson:** *Angelo Christian Rasa Aichi*

SISTER / BROTHERS & SPOUSES:
Antonio M. & Victoria M. Benavente / Fernando M. & Faustina S. Benavente / Ana B. & Felipe C. Aldan / Ignacio M. & Isabel A. Benavente / Roman M. & Dolores T. Benavente / Rudy Sedmik.

PARENTS-IN-LAWS:
Vincente Parong & Jacoba Igibor Maguines Seman

SISTERS / BROTHERS-IN-LAWS & SPOUSES:
Ramona S. Chong / Felipe M. & Maria T. Seman / Joaquin M. & Maria C. Seman / Juan M. & Esperenza T. Seman / Odorico M. Seman / Vicente M. Seman / Lorenzo LG. Iriarte

HER MEMORY WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HER:

SONS/DAUGHTERS & FAMILIES:
Nicolas *& Dolly Muna (Michelle, Elaine/Oscar, Jason, Nick Jr., Raymond & Nicole)*
Catalino *& Lucy Sanchez (Catherine, Craig/Nasia)*
Oscar C. & ***Patricia S****. Rasa (Diego/Jennifer, Vania, Oscar II, Margaret/Lino)*
Mario & ***Vivian S****. Taitano (Valerie)*
Benjamin B*. & Dorothy T. Seman (Benjamin Jr., Darriette & Deeshya)*
Richard B. *& Lorraine M . Seman (Vinycia/Jeff, Ricky, John, Anthony & Lorisha)*
Joseph Zachary B. Seman

REARED CHILDREN:
Thelma B*. Inos & Rufin S. Inos (Rozanne, Rufin Jr. & Vincent)*
James Benavente

SISTERS / BROTHERS-IN-LAWS:
Rosa B*. & Takesi Royal*
Maria B*. Sedmik*
Bernadita B*. & Charles Helstrom*

Sister-In-Law: *Lucia Seman Iriarte*
Brother-In-Law: *Dr. Jose L. Chong*
Caregiver: *Rose Capinpin*

She will also be missed by numerous Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Nieces, Nephews, Relatives and Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Cathedral and at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church except on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. & Sunday at 8:00am. Rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Tuesday, September 30, 2008, *her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. followed by Responso & Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetary.*

Your Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated

From the Family

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

†MANUEL TERLAJE CASTRO
"Manning"

invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

Mass will be celebrated daily at San Vicente Church beginning Sunday, September 28 through Monday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m.

On the last day, Monday, October 6, 2008, we invite all our relatives and friends to join us for dinner following the 6:00 p.m. Mass at the residence of Helen Castro and Jesus H. Sablan in Apu Drive, Chalan Kiya.

Your presence and prayers during the Daily Masses are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

The Family

New Kids on the Block soak up love on reunion tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Donnie Wahlberg might look and act tough, but he's a softie underneath.

The resident bad boy of New Kids on the Block said he has cried tears of joy while performing for thousands of screaming fans on the reunited band's arena tour, which began in Canada last week.

"We've had old banners being held up, new banners being held up, people singing the old songs, partying with the new songs, bras thrown onstage with women flashing us," Wahlberg said by phone from Toronto. "Husbands holding their wives and singing along to the songs with their wives in their arms ... I don't like to overblow the significance of anything, we're a pop group after all, but there's something really magical that's happening every night. I've been moved onstage on more than one occasion."

That admission coming from Wahlberg - known for his macho posturing and hip-hop swagger - might surprise the New Kids' hardcore devotees, who wouldn't expect him to weep and then talk openly about it. But Wahlberg said he's matured over the years. Right now, he feels validated by the resurgent fandemonium - after all, it's been a lifetime since the band last performed to crowds like this.

"I'm not some guy that is desperate, you know?" said Wahlberg, an actor whose film credits include "Righteous Kill," "The Sixth Sense" and the gory "Saw" flicks. "I didn't, like, need to go and do this to make money and stuff like that. I got a good career. I got plenty of things going on in my life. It's not like I needed this to bail me out of any mess or anything. It's just right. It just felt right. We did it for the right reasons and the reward is to share this with the fans and to see that they're so dialed in."

AP

In this Sept. 2, 2008 file photo, New Kids on the Block members, from left, Jordan Knight, Danny Wood, Joe McIntyre, Donnie Wahlberg and Jon Knight make an appearance on MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York.

Fourteen years after disbanding amid dwindling popularity and burnout, the New Kids - Wahlberg, Danny Wood, Joey McIntyre and brothers Jordan and Jonathan Knight - are reclaiming some of the magic from their heyday in the late 1980s and early '90s, when they made teenage girls swoon on a regular basis.

One of the most successful boy bands ever, the New Kids were the prototype for hysteria-inducing groups like the Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync and the Jonas Brothers. Millions of young girls obsessed over the New Kids, persuading their parents to buy them concert tickets, pillowcases, notebooks, lunch boxes, dolls and on and on.

Some of those girls, now in their twenties and thirties, have held on to that merch - and still harbor fond memories of brash Donnie, pretty boy Joey, chiseled Danny and the hair-gelled Knight siblings.

But they're no longer kids. In the years between '94 and '08, the men - now in their 30s - have experienced marriages, divorces, children, and hit-or-miss solo careers. Wahlberg has had a well-received detour into acting. McIntyre had high-profile stints on Broadway in "Wicked" on Broadway and on TV in "Dancing With the Stars." Jonathan Knight, who has suffered from crippling panic disorder, chucked showbiz to work in the real estate business. Jordan has pursued a solo career.

The reunion began a year ago after Wahlberg heard music for the song "Click Click Click" and sent it around to the other guys. That song became the first of 13 tracks on "The Block."

"It just so happened that the timing was good for all the guys and there were different things going on in our lives that made it work," said Wahlberg, who recently split from wife Kim. "I mean, I'm going through a breakup of my marriage. I lost my dad. I had a lot to talk about. A lot of emotional stuff that I was going through that really fueled me to want to keep working late hours into the night."

The band retains a retro vibe on the album with pop songs like "Summertime" and "2 In The Morning," but gains an updated sound. Among the album's collaborators are Ne-Yo, Akon and the Pussycat Dolls. Since its Sept. 2 release, "The Block" has sold about 139,000 copies. It debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 top albums chart before sliding down the chart.

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THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17

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Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13 T

Synopsis
Jerry Shaw and Rachel Holloman are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations—using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move. As the situation escalates, these two ordinary people become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must work together to discover what is really happening.

Nights in Rodanthe

Friday		4:00	7:10	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Richard Gere, Diane Lane
Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13 T

Synopsis
Adrienne Willis, a woman with her life in chaos, retreats to the tiny coastal town of Rodanthe, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to tend to a friend's inn for the weekend. Here she hopes to find the tranquility she so desperately needs to rethink the conflicts surrounding her—a wayward husband who has asked to come home, and a teenaged daughter who resents her every decision. Almost as soon as Adrienne gets to Rodanthe, a major storm is forecast and Dr. Paul Flanner arrives.

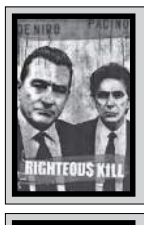
House Bunny

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13 T

Synopsis
Shelley Darlington, a Playboy Bunny, is living a carefree life until a rival gets her tossed out of the Playboy Mansion. With nowhere to go, fate delivers her to the sorority girls from Zeta Alpha Zeta. Unless they can sign a new pledge class, the seven socially clueless women will lose their house to the scheming girls of Phi Iota Mu. In order to accomplish their goal, they need Shelley to teach them the ways of makeup and men; at the same time, Shelley needs some of what the Zetas have—a sense of individuality.

★ ★ ★



Righteous Kill

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Action, Drama • Rated R T

Disaster Movie

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:15	

Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13 T

Bangkok Dangerous

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:50
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R T

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R T

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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Officer: Ex-Blink 182 drummer in intense pain

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—One of the first responders to a fiery South Carolina plane crash said Wednesday that a pair of musicians escaped the flaming wreckage by sliding down the wing.

"They said the plane went down. They didn't say how or if they knew," said Lt. Jason Shumpert of the South Congaree Police Department. "Once it went down, they were able to slide down the wing of the plane, and they jumped on each other to put fires on each other out and rolled around on the ground."

Shumpert said he didn't know until later that the two badly burned men were former Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker and celebrity disc jockey DJ AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein. One of their doctors at a Georgia burn hospital said he expects them to fully recover from their second- and third-degree burns.

A video of the Friday night crash scene shot from Shumpert's police car shows an inferno next to the road, with screams ringing out above the din of sirens of ambulances and fire trucks. Shumpert said the screaming voice belonged to Barker, who was trembling and seemed to be in intense pain as he sat on the sidewalk, waiting for medical help to arrive.

"Travis, you could tell he was in pain," Shumpert said. "He just kept saying: 'That's my friends in the plane, that's my friends in the plane.'"

Pilot Sarah Lemmon, 31, of Anaheim Hills, Calif., and co-pilot James Bland, 52, of Carlsbad, Calif., died of smoke inhalation and burns within minutes of the crash. A South Carolina coroner has said Chris Baker, 29, of Studio City, Calif., and Charles Still, 25, of Los Angeles, close friends of the musicians, died on impact.

Barker, 32, was one of the more colorful members of the multiplatinum-selling punk rock band Blink-182. DJ AM is a popular DJ who was also a tabloid favorite for some celebrity romances.

Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board have not said what caused the crash. A cockpit voice recorder revealed that crew members thought a tire blew and tried to abort the takeoff. The Learjet shot off the end of the runway, ripped through a fence and crossed a highway before coming to rest, engulfed in flames.

NTSB officials, who have recovered pieces of tire from the runway, planned to return to Washington on Thursday. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., which made the tires, has said it is cooperating with the investigation.

A spokesman for a clothing company Barker owns said Tuesday the drummer had been through several surgeries and was trying to keep an upbeat attitude. Regardless of what caused the crash, Shumpert said both men are lucky to be alive.

"It was divine intervention that they got out," he said. "They should be commended for being able to get out and keep their heads together."

McCain cancels Letterman spot

In suspending his presidential campaign to focus on the ongoing financial crisis, Sen. John McCain is skipping an opportunity for some late-night television exposure. The Republican presidential nominee canceled his scheduled Wednesday-night appearance on the "Late Show With David Letterman," a spokeswoman for the show confirmed.

It would have been McCain's first visit to a late-night talk show since the Republican convention.

As a substitute guest, producers tapped someone with a decidedly different political outlook: MSNBC host Keith Olbermann, who frequently berates McCain's campaign tactics on his program.

McCain has a long history with the "Late Show." He's appeared on the program 12 times and used one such visit in February 2007 to announce his candidacy for president. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

A snapshot of the man who would become 41

By PHILIP KENNICOTT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

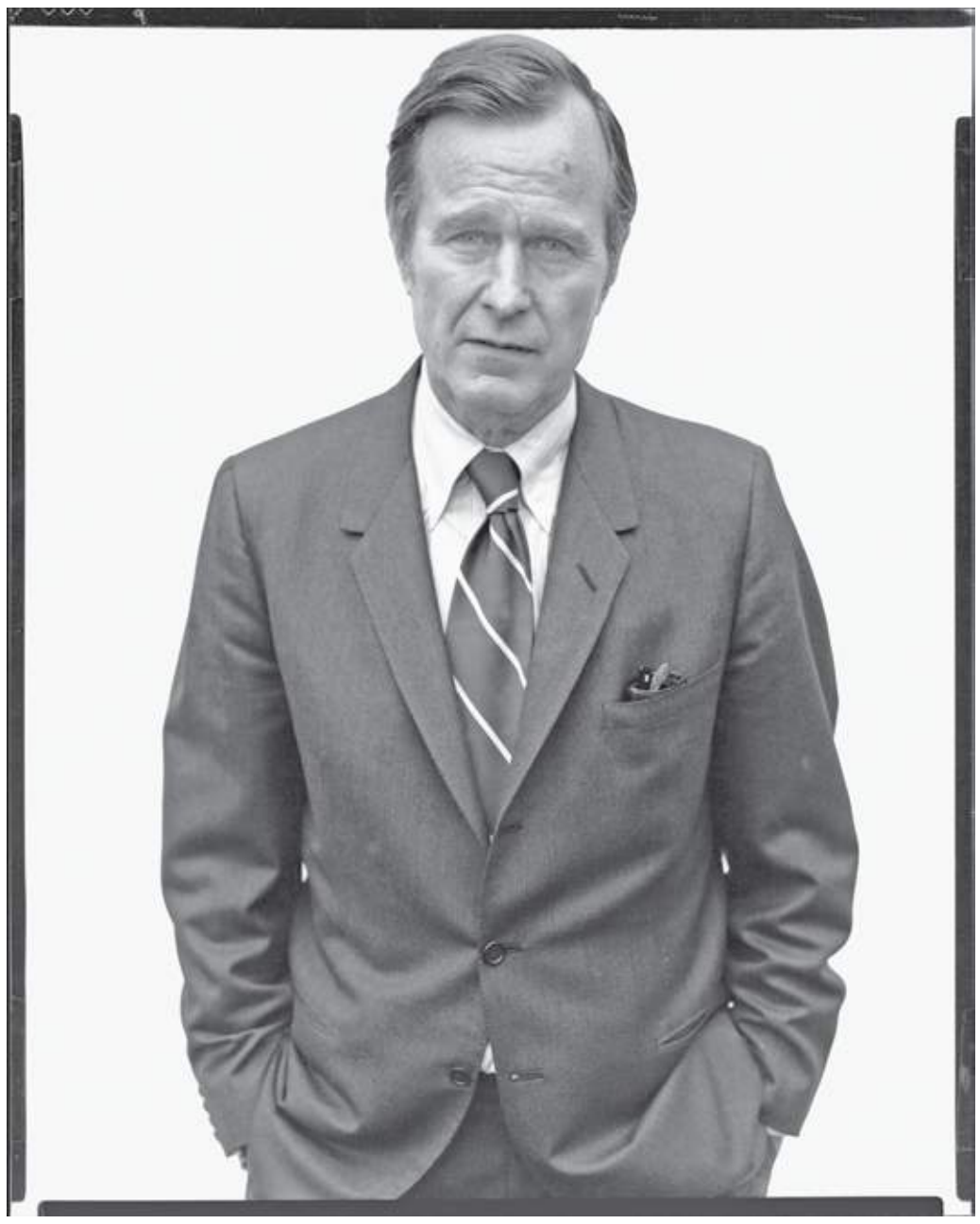
In 1976, when Richard Avedon included him in "The Family" portfolio, George Bush didn't need the H.W. in his name to distinguish him from his son George W. Bush. If you had said, "That's 41, not 43," people would have assumed you were talking in code, not a bad surmise given that George H.W. Bush was, at the time, the head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The future president fills out the frame no more or less than the average subject in this series. Avedon's white space, which the photographer called the "void"—the existential nothingness from which we come and into which we disappear—surrounds him on both sides. Like others in "The Family," Bush's head barely grazes the top of the frame.

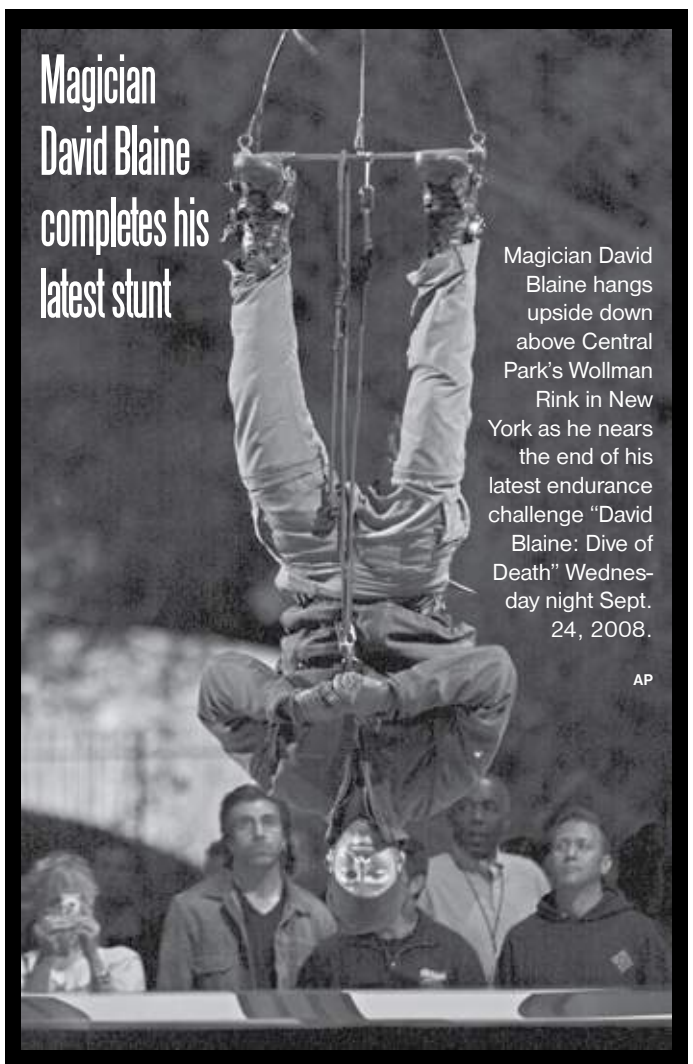
In one of Avedon's early layouts of the series, Bush was paired opposite Katharine Graham, then publisher of The Washington Post. The juxtaposition (which he changed before the photographs appeared in Rolling Stone magazine) is striking. Each fills roughly the same amount of the void, but Graham takes up a lot more space. She is a powerful presence, staring down the photographer. By contrast, Bush seems like a schoolboy, hands in his pockets, shoulders sagging, head slightly cocked. His eyebrows give him the questioning, impenetrable look of a little dog.

Can we see the subject neutrally? If we like Bush, we see a humble, genial man, which is how Avedon says he found him during the photo shoot. But it's also possible to see Bush the Wimp, as Ronald Reagan is supposed to have labeled him. Or Bush the East Coast scion of power, with a school tie and jacket that scream Ivy League. Avedon's deliberate objectivity (or opacity) leaves us befuddled: Is this real humility, or a familiarity with power so deeply embedded in the man that he doesn't need to project confidence?

It also shows how smart the title "The Family" would turn out to be. Suggested by the writer Renata Adler, "The Family"—which included people from across the political spectrum—is deliberately ambiguous, as likely to bring to mind the Mafia as any happy notion that our leaders are all dedicated to a mutual project of civic nurturing. Of course, seeing George Bush without his initials reminds us of a more specific family—the one that has dominated American politics for more than a quarter-century. Sometimes, to get in The Family, all you have to do is be part of the family.



George Bush in 1976 before he was Bush 41: Nice guy or wimp or East Coast scion of power?
THE WASHINGTON POST



Magician David Blaine hangs upside down above Central Park's Wollman Rink in New York as he nears the end of his latest endurance challenge "David Blaine: Dive of Death" Wednesday night Sept. 24, 2008.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Magician-daredevil David Blaine has safely finished his latest stunt: hanging upside-down without a net high over Central Park for 60 hours.

Oh, he's caught a bullet in his mouth, too.

The endurance artist began dangling from a wire over a park skating rink on Monday. He kept smiling while describing the "enormous push of blood" that made it feel as though his head was "about to explode."

He celebrated the completion of the wire act Wednesday night by diving from a platform 44 feet to the ground while attached to a harness.

A two-hour ABC television special called "David Blaine: Dive of Death" also showed footage of him catching a .22-calibre bullet fired from a rifle into a metal cup in his mouth.

Disney gala shows off upcoming movies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In a gala adorned with Hollywood stars, The Walt Disney Co. wowed an industry crowd Wednesday in a showcase of its upcoming films that included a sequel to its 1982 sci-fi flick "Tron" and a "Lone Ranger" remake with Johnny Depp as Tonto.

The daylong presentation at the Kodak Theatre, home of the Oscars, delivered repeated surprises as actors emerged onstage to tout animated 3-D movies, live-action thrillers and comedies—with animal co-stars ranging from guinea pigs and chihuahuas to humpback whales.

Jim Carrey, starring in his first Disney film, a 3-D motion capture remake of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," summed up the chaos of his performance, in which he plays seven characters including Ebenezer Scrooge.

"It's pretty much just a party and everyone's invited," he said.

Commenting on Disney's lengthy rollout, which included a full screening of the animated dog-hero movie "Bolt," Carrey told out-of-town guests, "You can go back home and say these saddle sores came from Hollywood."

Disney made a similar presentation of its animated films to investors in April in New York, but held its last live-action movie showcase three years ago.

The 17 films presented then grossed over $5 billion at the box office, said Dick Cook, the chairman of Disney studios. He called the upcoming film slate the "most creative" in Disney history.

Among other casting announcements, Disney said Oprah Winfrey will be the voice of the character of Eudora in the hand-drawn animated movie set in New Orleans, "The Princess and the Frog."

The film features an African American heroine, Tiana, played by Anika Noni Rose. Winfrey plays Tiana's mother in the movie set for release on Christmas in 2009.

Depp, who received top billing for the role of Jack Sparrow in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise, will also play the Mad Hatter in a Tim Burton remake of "Alice in Wonderland."

AP

In this image released by Disney, orange fireworks explode over Cinderella's Castle while illuminated pumpkins are projected with light during the "Happy HalloWishes" fireworks show, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The show is part of "Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party," an after-hours Halloween celebration at the theme park.

"Believe me, any time this guy wears a funny hat, it's good news for Disney," Cook said.

A brief snippet from "Tron 2" featured a louder, crisper and more thrilling bike race and a cameo of an older Jeff Bridges, who starred in the original version.

Miley Cyrus, star of an eponymous movie and television show, performed a live song from "Hannah Montana: The Movie"; Robin Williams and John Travolta, stars of the upcoming "Old Dogs," yucked it up on stage; George Lopez appeared to promote "Beverly Hills Chihuahua"; and Dwayne Johnson was on hand to tout "Race to Witch Mountain."

The University of Southern California marching band even made an appearance.

The Pixar and Disney animation studios' chief creative officer, John Lasseter, also broke the news that "Cars 2," the sequel to the blockbuster he directed for Pixar Animation Studios, would be released in the summer of 2011, a year earlier than once planned.

Along with a wide-ranging slate of films starring Sandra Bullock ("The Proposal"), Tim Allen ("Wild Hogs 2"), and Zac Efron ("High School Musical 3: Senior Year"), Cook boasted Disney would release five 3-D movies next year, more than any other studio.

Cook fired a barb at former Disney studios chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg, now chief executive of DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc., ribbing: "I read that even Jeffrey Katzenberg may release his first 3-D movie next year," in reference to "Monsters vs. Aliens."

The company also previewed films from its labels Touchstone and Miramax, the latter of which produced the 2007 Oscar winners "No Country for Old Men," and "There Will Be Blood."

The most promising Miramax release, set for release in December, was "Doubt," starring Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman in a dark tale about a nun's fight against a priest who she suspects of sexually abusing a black student.

Practice that isn't perfect triggers family discord

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I disagree about how to handle a problem with our 6-year-old daughter, "Emily," who has not been practicing her piano lessons as diligently as we would like. After her last lesson, I told my wife that I didn't think Emily did very well.

My wife thinks we should deny Emily her bedtime snack. I disagree. I feel that practicing the piano is a responsibility, and Emily should not be punished. Failure to be responsible has its own consequences. What do you think?

AT ODDS IN AUSTIN

DEAR AT ODDS: Piano practice should not be turned into a power struggle. Denying food to a child who is hungry is not, in my opinion, appropriate. What Emily may need is help from you and/or her mother to structure her schedule so there's enough time for music practice.

You should also have a talk with your daughter and ask her why she hasn't been practicing as she should. It's possible that she dislikes the piano and would prefer another instrument, or activity, if given the choice.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Nine years ago I had reconstructive facial surgery to repair a botched nose job. It changed the way I look. My nose was fixed, but it left my upper lip very stiff, and when I talk it can be distracting to others. My children and my husband are fine with it, but my mother and brother have a hard time looking at and socializing with me.

Over the past nine years some hurtful things have happened. I was in church one Sunday and overheard my brother say laughingly, "I can't believe how she looks." Mom told him, "You'd better contain yourself." Once, when my sister-in-law was holding her year-old daughter, I was smiling and talking to the baby. My sister-in-law said to her, "You don't even know what you're looking at, do you?"

Abby, sometimes I catch my mother shaking her head in disbelief over my appearance. I asked my brother for the name of his doctor for my daughter, and he told me to use my own doctor. The incidents go on and on.

After many painful rejections I have finally decided to move on with my life without these family members. I have explained that I will no longer attend family functions because they do not accept me. My husband and kids support me in this. I will be there if my family needs me, but I want nothing more from them. Am I wrong for pushing them away?

HURT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR HURT: You are entitled to spend your time with people who love you, respect you and enjoy having you around. From what you have related, the dysfunction in your family may go beyond the circumstances of your unfortunate nose job and reconstructive surgery.

Your sister-in-law appears to be insensitive at best, and your brother is downright hostile. If it's painful to be around them, then by all means spend your time with people who will accept you as you are.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 44-year-old man who has never married. Because of this, some of my family and friends think I'm gay. They never have asked me outright, but they occasionally allude to it as a "joke." How can I let them know that I'm not gay and put to rest their way of thinking?

STRAIGHT IN SAN ANTONIO

DEAR STRAIGHT: The next time someone makes a joke about your sexual orientation, look the person in the eye and say, "That's funny. But, you know, I'm not gay—just happy being single." It's the truth, and you're not alone. Many straight people of both sexes have never made it to the altar and plan to keep it that way.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

2nd celebrity booted from 'Dancing with the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ted McGinley from "Married with Children" has gotten a divorce from "Dancing with the Stars." The actor and his professional partner, Inna Brayer, were eliminated Wednesday from ABC's dancing competition.

The pair received a score of 19 out of 30 from the show's judges Tuesday following their mambo routine. McGinley was sent packing after his score - the third-lowest - was combined with viewer votes.

"It's been a lot of fun," McGinley said after his ouster. "You know, I know there's a lot of guys sitting at home with a beer in their hand having a little chuckle at me. You know what? Thank you for that. I appreciate it. I'm one of the guys. I guess I'll always be one of the guys. Some of us aren't meant to dance, I guess."

Comedian Jeffery Ross and partner Edyta Sliwinska were dismissed Tuesday after the remaining couples performed a new dance.

In this image released by ABC, actor Ted McGinley, left, and his partner Inna Brayer perform on the ABC celebrity dance competition, "Dancing With The Stars," Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008 in Los Angeles. Another couple is expected to be eliminated during a broadcast on Wednesday.

AP

Model-actress Brooke Burke dominated the dancing competition Tuesday, scoring a 26 for a quick-step routine. The former host of E!'s "Wild On" and dancing partner Derek Hough also claimed the top score during Monday's premiere.

The celebrities remaining in the competition include celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito; former National Football League star Warren Sapp; TV personalities Burke and Kim Kardashian; singers Lance Bass and Toni Braxton; Olympic gold medalists Maurice Greene and Misty May-Treanor; and actresses Cloris Leachman, Cody Linley and Susan Lucci.

Michael Douglas asked about Wall Street crisis

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Michael Douglas had to field questions Wednesday about the financial turmoil shaking world markets from reporters recalling his role in the 1987 film "Wall Street."

The actor sought to focus on the subject of Wednesday's news conference—urging the United States and eight other holdout nations to ratify a nuclear test ban treaty.

Douglas won an Academy Award for portraying the rapacious banker Gordon Gekko, who popularized the phrase "greed is good" in the movie.

After world leaders here condemned the "boundless greed" of world markets, Douglas was asked to compare nuclear Armageddon with the "financial Armageddon on Wall Street."

But the likening to Gekko did not end there, with a reporter asking: "Are you saying Gordon that greed is not good?"

"I'm not saying that," Douglas replied. "And my name is not Gordon. He's a character I played 20 years ago."

Douglas, who married actress Catherine Zeta-Jones in 2000, has won two Oscars—as a producer for 1975's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and as best actor for his role in "Wall Street."

AP

United Nations Messenger of Peace and actor Michael Douglas participates in a panel discussion on the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty during the 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008.

Paul McCartney in Bethlehem: I'm carrying peace message

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—Paul McCartney said Wednesday he's carrying a message of peace for Israel and the Palestinians, rejecting criticism of his planned concert in Tel Aviv. McCartney toured the West Bank town of Bethlehem, visiting the Church of the Nativity, built over the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

The 66-year-old former Beatle ducked into the fourth-century church through its low, narrow entrance, taking pictures with a small camera. He lit two long, tapered white candles in different parts of the church, saying each time that they were "for peace."

After posing for pictures with fans outside the fortress-like church, McCartney was asked to respond to criticism from some Palestinians that his visit to Israel supports its occupation of the West Bank.

He said his visit Wednesday to the West Bank showed he was not playing favorites.

"I'm here to highlight the situation and to say that what we need is peace in this region, a two-state solution," he said, referring to Israel and a Palestinian state.

"I get criticized everywhere I go, but I don't listen to them," McCartney said. "I'm bringing a message of peace, and I think that's what the region needs."

Cash recording to be released with new documentary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—An unreleased recitation by Johnny Cash will be available as part of a new documentary examining Cash's views on America. In "I Am The Nation," the deep-voiced singer personifies the country with references to important events and people in American history.

Cash

The recording was discovered in Cash's personal belongings after his death. It will be released as part of "Johnny Cash's America," a documentary airing Oct. 23 on the Biography Channel. The companion DVD/CD package on Legacy Recordings will be available Oct. 28.

The documentary features interviews with Bob Dylan; Al Gore; Snoop Dogg; Sheryl Crow; Steve Earle; Kris Kristofferson; Loretta Lynn; Merle Haggard; U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander; Tim Robbins; Vince Gill; Cash; his sister, Joanne; and his children, John Carter Cash and Cindy Cash.

In the film, Cash, who was outspoken on social issues, discusses the political process and the two parties.

"The whole film and soundtrack are poignant for what's going on in the political climate right now," said Charlie Dougiello, a spokesman for the project.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YEP, MARS MAY BE A LITTLE DULL, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN EARTH.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
WE'VE GOT A WHOLE PLANET TO OURSELVES. BRAND NEW AND UNSPOILED. NO PEOPLE, NO POLLUTION.
NOTHING BUT RUGGED, NATURAL BEAUTY AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.
THAT'S NOT YOUR CANDY BAR WRAPPER OVER THERE, IS IT?
IT WAS JUST THERE A MINUTE! I WASN'T GOING TO LEAVE IT.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
9/26 WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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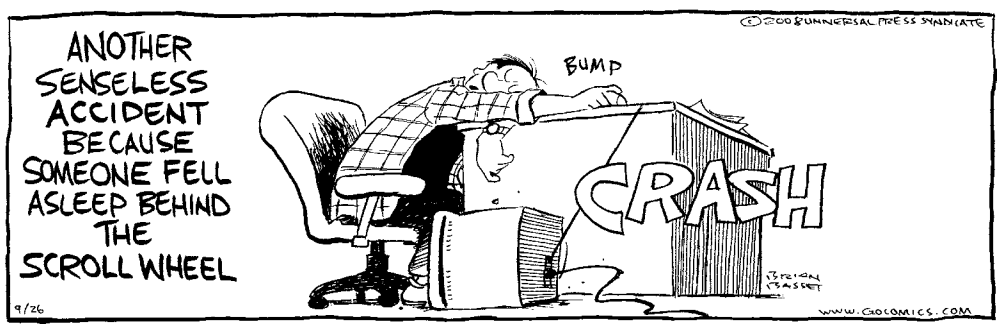
I'M BORED 9-26
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK
I'M HERE TO DELIVER YOUR THREE TONS OF DRIED FLIES...
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M TRAPPED IN A DEAD-END JOB.
THE HARDER I WORK, THE FASTER I GO NOWHERE.
I'M NOT ON A CORPORATE LADDER. I'M ON A CORPORATE STAIRMASTER.
© Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

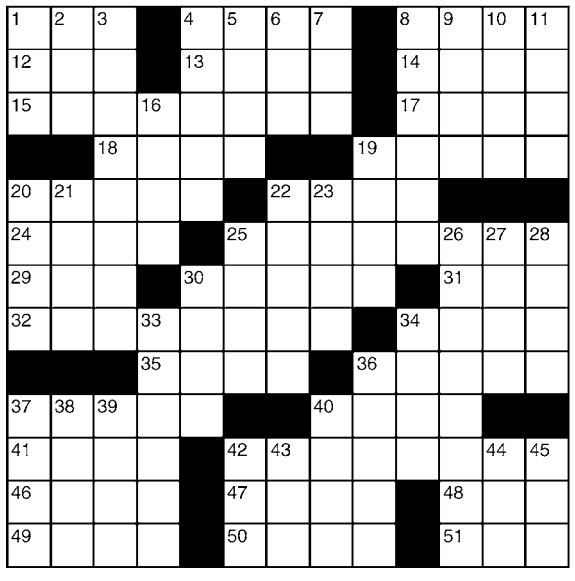
ACROSS
1 Hot tub
4 Duel tool
8 Vatican VIP
12 Surprise cries
13 Cager's tactic
14 Satan's specialty
15 Be at odds
17 Collections
18 Addict
19 Haiku, for one
20 Family-night activities
22 Castle protector
24 Met melody
25 "Full House" cast member
29 Corral
30 His work inspired "Cats"
31 Fish eggs
32 Algonquian bigwig
34 Angle
35 Actress Hayworth
36 Sanctify
37 "Ivanhoe" author
40 Gridlock sound
41 Protuberance
42 Maternity-ward announcement
46 Bakery employee, at times
47 Archie Bunker's creator
48 Born
49 Flower
50 Fat
51 Coll. transcript no.

DOWN
1 Turf
2 — Beta Kappa
3 Pretentious
4 A cube has twelve
5 Kitten's call
6 Away from WSW
7 Scratch (out)
8 Spain's euro forerunner
9 Finished
10 Seeds
11 Differently
16 Cruising
19 Really big
20 Spaces
21 Neighborhood
22 Actress Kelly
23 Bassoon's cousin
25 Rorschach picture
26 Hello
27 Quite a long time
28 Kennedy and Koppel
30 Send forth
33 Blood line?
34 Postings on one's Web site
36 Plank
37 Use scissors
38 Gabrielle Chanel
39 Idolaters' recitations
40 Despot
42 Feeling poorly
43 Afternoon social
44 Agt.
45 Meadow

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	A	R	S	■	O	A	F	■	C	H	I	P
P	L	O	T	■	I	L	L	■	L	A	N	A
E	T	U	I	■	L	E	O	■	A	U	N	T
C	O	E	R	C	E	■	T	H	I	N	■	■
■	■	■	F	O	R	T	S	U	M	T	E	R
D	O	O	R	S	■	W	A	G	■	I	R	E
E	N	V	Y	■	J	I	M	■	A	N	N	A
A	T	E	■	S	O	N	■	A	N	G	E	R
F	O	R	T	P	I	E	R	C	E	■	■	■
■	■	S	W	A	N	■	U	T	M	O	S	T
T	R	E	E	■	T	E	N	■	O	M	A	R
N	E	A	R	■	L	Y	E	■	N	E	R	O
T	B	S	P	■	Y	E	S	■	E	N	I	D

Yesterday's answer 9-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Milian, 27; Serena Williams, 27; Shawn Stockman, 36; James Caviezel, 40

Happy Birthday: Join forces with other people who share your agenda this year. Take the initiative rather than waiting for someone else to start. Love issues will surface. Let your professional or personal partner know what you expect and what you have to offer. Your ability to find solutions will put you in a hero's position. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 21, 34, 42, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You know you have what it takes to excel, so put everything you can muster up into giving your best. You have more to offer than you realize, so let everyone interested know how you intend to develop your plan. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It's time to clean up any mess that has been holding you back or making your life miserable. Deal with people who have been difficult and make up with anyone you may have treated wrongly in the past. Put everything in perspective. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone is likely to dump more responsibilities on you. Don't be upset. Instead, do what you can and show everyone you are capable of much more. This can be a winning situation if you take on the challenge. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A reminder of what you used to do will help you make changes to your personal life now. Contact old friends or lovers and you will discover that not that much has changed. Don't argue over feuds that were never resolved. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Start fixing up your place. You need to build a space that is conducive to your creative work. One of your ideas will lead to cash. You can talk others into contributing to your plans but don't mislead anyone by exaggerating. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get away from everyone and everything that is bothering you so you can think straight. Visit friends who are supportive and who give sound advice. Travel somewhere you used to go when life was simpler. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Give back and you will feel good about what you've contributed. Collaborating with someone equally as creative will lead to a partnership that can be financially, mentally and professionally prosperous. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be inspired to finish something you've been working on. Incorporate a partner into your plans in order to get more accomplished. However, don't give away too much when you have done most of the initial work yourself. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't lose it just because someone is trying to get you to do things you don't feel responsible for. Handle the situation diplomatically, in your own unique Sagittarius way. Don't use brute force. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put your time and energy into a money or property deal you've been considering. You can expect a payback. Do something for someone who isn't able and you will be rewarded for your time and effort. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Questioning a partnership should tell you something about the person you are dealing with. This is not the time to make rash decisions but it is the time to consider whether or not you should be making a few adjustments to your current relationships. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You are likely to upset someone you respect and need in your corner if you neglected to listen or take this person's suggestions. Talk matters through and make amends quickly before you lose an important friendship. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, playful, emotional, sensitive and loving. You are stable, steadfast and strong. You see the big picture and are open to suggestions but usually follow your own path.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	3						
			2		1			7
					4			1
	4	2					6	
				3				
	6					5	4	
7			8					
9			1		5			
						7	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	5	1	9	3	6	8	2
8	9	3	5	2	6	1	4	7
6	1	2	4	7	8	3	9	5
4	2	1	3	6	9	7	5	8
5	6	9	8	4	7	2	1	3
3	8	7	2	1	5	4	6	9
2	5	8	6	3	1	9	7	4
1	7	4	9	5	2	8	3	6
9	3	6	7	8	4	5	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KUMQUATS **Solution: 8 letters**

R	S	E	D	A	L	A	M	R	A	M	O	O	L	B
I	D	E	I	D	N	A	C	I	T	A	I	S	A	L
N	R	Y	P	U	V	A	R	I	E	T	Y	B	S	O
D	D	C	R	I	K	I	N	K	A	N	N	U	U	S
T	E	I	A	A	C	S	Y	R	U	P	I	R	O	S
K	R	U	H	I	N	E	N	T	E	M	H	H	I	O
C	A	J	T	A	L	O	R	I	P	H	S	S	C	M
A	G	R	A	L	R	I	I	O	M	E	T	O	I	S
N	U	C	O	P	T	V	R	T	R	A	L	A	L	R
S	S	W	U	I	A	T	E	F	C	O	T	E	E	E
H	A	L	O	T	R	N	E	S	R	E	V	I	D	W
S	P	N	I	A	N	I	K	S	T	E	F	A	V	O
E	A	U	T	E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	L	L
L	R	I	P	E	A	L	L	E	N	U	T	R	O	F
F	I	B	E	R	D	E	T	A	V	I	T	L	U	C

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Asiatic, Bloom, Blossoms, Candied, Citrus, Colors, Confectionary, Cultivated, Delicious, Diverse, Evergreen, Fiber, Flavor, Flesh, Flowers, Fortunella, Fresh, Fruit, Harvest, Import, Japan, Juicy, Kinkan, Marmalade, Nutritional, Pulp, Recipes, Rind, Ripe, Shiny, Shrubs, Skin, Snack, Sugared, Syrup, Tart, Variety, Vitamins, Weather, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Documentary

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P.O. Box 504584 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF: JHONLYN AWA-AO CHONG and ANGELICA AWA-AO CHONG A Minor Children	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0544**
by	
ANTONIO C. CHONG and RHEA AYNE PEÑALOSA-CHONG Petitioners	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 9, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Name: Bernardita Reyes
P.O. Box 504274 CK
Saipan, MP
Telephone No. 235-5983

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0531
ANDREW A. ADARME Minor Child	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: RICARDO REYES BERNARDITA REYES Petitioners	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 06, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Dodgers beat Padres 12-4 to clinch tie for NL West title

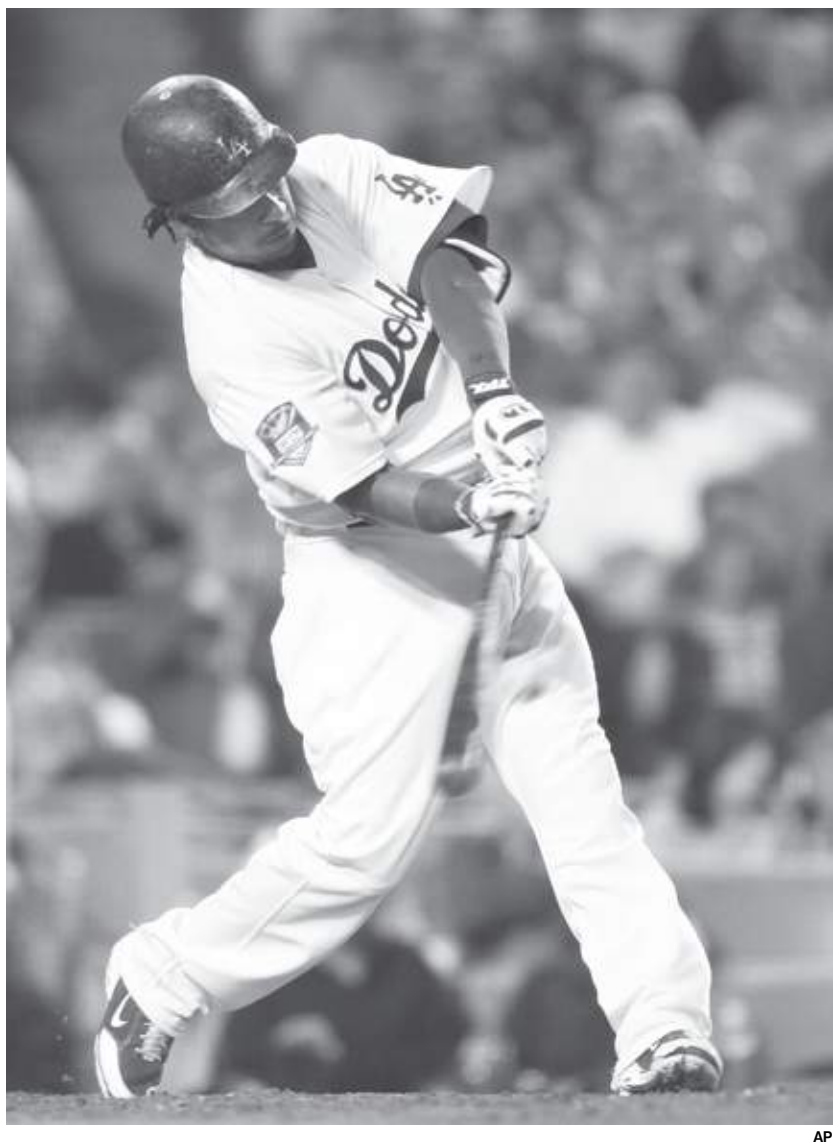
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Manny Ramirez and Nomar Garciaparra homered, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 12-4 on Wednesday to clinch a tie for their first National League West championship in four years.

The Dodgers' victory combined with Arizona's 4-2 loss at St. Louis gave Los Angeles a four-game lead over the Diamondbacks with four games remaining.

The Dodgers can clinch their fifth postseason berth since 1988 on Thursday if the Diamondbacks lose at St. Louis, or if they beat the Padres in their final home game of the regular season.

Ramirez, Garciaparra, James Loney and Angel Berroa drove in two runs each for the Dodgers, who have won 18 of their last 23 games.

Rookie Clayton Kershaw (5-5) earned the victory, allowing six hits and three runs in 5 2-3 innings.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez hits a two run home run against the San Diego Padres during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Cardinals 4, Diamondbacks 2

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright pitched out of two bases-loaded jams and St. Louis dampened Arizona's playoff hopes.

The Diamondbacks, who stranded 11 runners, dropped four games behind first-place Los Angeles in the NL West. The Dodgers clinched at least a tie for the division title.

Arizona's Mark Reynolds struck out once to tie the major league record for strikeouts in a season with 199. Philadelphia's Ryan Howard set the mark last season.

Wainwright (11-3) pitched into the seventh inning, allowing seven hits and five walks. Wainwright, 7-1 at home this year, has won his last six decisions and hasn't lost since June 2. He was sidelined from June 8 to Aug. 22 by a middle finger sprain.

Braves 10, Phillies 4

At Philadelphia, Chipper Jones hit his second career pinch-homer and Atlanta beat NL East-leading Philadelphia.

The Phillies remained 1 1/2 games ahead of New York in the division, and despite the loss their magic number for winning the East dropped to three with the Mets' 9-6, 10-inning loss to Chicago. Philadelphia will finish the regular season with a three-game series against the last-place Washington Nationals, starting Friday.

Ryan Howard hit his major league-leading 47th homer and Chase Utley also went deep for the Phillies. Brett Myers (10-13) got roughed up for the second straight start, allowing allowed six runs—four earned—and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Jones' homer made it 9-3. He passed Duke Snider for 42nd on the career list with 408 homers.

Cubs 9, Mets 6, 10 innings

At New York, Derrek Lee blooped a go-ahead double in the 10th off Luis Ayala (2-10) and Aramis Ramirez followed with a two-run homer for Chicago, which rallied from a four-run deficit to beat New York.

New York, which wasted Carlos Delgado's third-inning grand slam off Carlos Zambrano and a 5-1 lead, dropped into a tie with Milwaukee for the NL wild-card lead and remained 1 1/2 games behind NL East-leading Philadelphia. The Mets, who have four games remaining, failed to win after taking a four-run lead for the eighth time this season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Last year, the Mets imploded in one of baseball's greatest folds, failing to make the playoffs after leading their division by seven games with 17 to play.

Brewers 4, Pirates 2

At Milwaukee, CC Sabathia gave up four hits over seven innings while striking out a season-high 11 and Milwaukee moved into a tie with New York for the wild-card lead.

Milwaukee won its 11th straight over Pittsburgh in its quest to make the postseason for the first time since 1982.

The Brewers started September with a 5 1/2-game lead in the wild card but squandered it with a 2-8 road trip that saw Dale Sveum replace Ned Yost as manager.

Adam LaRoche homered with one out in the ninth against Salomon Torres, who picked up his 28th save.

Astros 5, Reds 0

At Houston, Randy Wolf pitched 6 2-3 strong innings and Lance Berkman hit a two-run homer to keep Houston's slim playoff hopes alive.

The Astros pulled within 3 1/2 games of the wild card with four games left, trailing New York and Milwaukee for the top spot.

Wolf (12-12) allowed eight hits, struck out seven and walked two, improving to 6-2 in 12 starts since being acquired from San Diego on July 22.

Cincinnati put runners in scoring position in the second, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh innings but Wolf managed to work his way out of trouble every time.

Geoff Geary, LaTroy Hawkins and Doug Brocail pitched the final 2 1-3 innings and allowed only two hits.

Marlins 9, Nationals 4

At Washington, Hanley Ramirez homered on the game's first pitch and prospects Cameron Maybin and Gaby Sanchez combined for six hits for Florida's win over Washington.

Officially eliminated from playoff contention a night earlier, the Marlins gave Sanchez his first major league start and he responded by going 3-for-5 with two doubles and an RBI.

Maybin, Sanchez's teammate at Double-A Carolina this season, went 3-for-3 with a sacrifice bunt to raise his average to .500 (14-for-28) with Florida.

Josh Johnson (7-1) wrapped up a strong finish to 2008, with wins in his final three starts.

Rockies 15, Giants 6

At San Francisco, Clint Barmes homered, doubled in two runs and singled twice and Garrett Atkins hit a three-run homer for Colorado.

Barmes, who matched his career high with the four hits, scored four times and finished with four RBIs. Jeff Baker hit a solo homer, Chris Iannetta's two-run double in the first staked the Rockies to an early lead and Matt Holliday added a two-run double to help Livan Hernandez (3-3) defeat his former club.

Hernandez, who had two hits, allowed 12 hits and five runs in seven innings.

Rays 11, Orioles 6

At Baltimore, Tampa Bay rallied from a six-run deficit to beat Baltimore and reduce its magic number to clinch their first division title to one.

The Rays, who trailed 5-0 in the first inning, didn't clinch the American League East because Boston beat Cleveland 5-4 to remain three games behind. The Rays open a four-game series in Detroit on Thursday.

Akinori Iwamura had two hits and three RBIs for the Rays, who completed a four-game sweep. It was the ninth time this season the Orioles blew a four-run lead, most in the majors, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Baltimore has lost nine straight and 28 of 34. The Orioles went 3-15 against Tampa Bay this season, losing the last 12.

Edwin Jackson (13-11) got the win despite giving up six runs and 10 hits in 5 1-3 innings. Trever Miller pitched 2 1-3 innings of one-hit relief to earn his second save.

Red Sox 5, Indians 4

At Boston, pinch-hitter Jeff Bailey tripled and scored on Mark Kotsay's double to break an eighth-inning tie for Boston against Cleveland.

One game after the Red Sox clinched a playoff berth and celebrated into the night, they jumped on Fausto Carmona for four runs in the first, chasing him from the game in his shortest outing in more than a year. The Indians came back to tie it 4-all in the fifth against Boston starter Paul Byrd.

David Aardsma (4-2) earned the victory with 1 2-3 innings of scoreless relief, allowing one hit and striking out one. Rafael Perez (4-4) gave up a run on two hits and an intentional walk in one inning.

Twins 3, White Sox 2

At Minneapolis, Nick Blackburn fought through five innings and the maligned Minnesota bullpen didn't flinch as the Twins pulled within a half-game of Chicago in the AL Central.

Blackburn (11-10) gave up eight hits and two walks. Craig Breslow, Boof Bonser and Jose Mijares followed with three scoreless innings, and Joe Nathan handled the ninth for his 39th save.

Minnesota improved to 7-1 against Chicago at the Metrodome this year. The margin between these teams has been no bigger than 2 1/2 games since July 27.

Mark Buehrle (14-12) retired 13 of the last 15 batters he faced but he allowed three runs and eight hits in seven inning.

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his third homer for the White Sox, the 611th of his career.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 2, 10 innings

At Toronto, Bobby Abreu hit a grand slam in the 10th inning and New York downed Toronto for its seventh straight win.

Facing left-hander Jesse Carlson, Juan Miranda doubled to begin the 10th and was replaced by pinch-runner Melky Cabrera. Chad Moeller walked and Brett Gardner advanced both runners with a sacrifice before Robinson Cano was hit on the leg, loading the bases for Abreu, who drilled a 1-0 pitch into the bullpen in right field. It was his 20th homer of the season.

Carlson (7-2) had not allowed a run in 14 innings.

Royals 10, Tigers 4

At Detroit, Mitch Maier hit a bases-loaded triple in Kansas City's seven-run fifth inning as the Royals swept the three-game series against Detroit.

Brian Bannister (9-16) pitched six shutout innings for the fourth-place Royals, bidding to avoid the AL Central basement for the first time in five seasons. Kansas City has won 11 of 13.

Nate Robertson (7-11) was charged with eight runs, seven earned, and seven hits in 4 2-3 innings for Detroit.

Placido Polanco hit a three-run homer and Mike Hessman added a solo shot for the Tigers, who have lost 12 of 13.

Tony Pena Jr. and John Buck each drove in two runs for Kansas City.

Rangers 14, Athletics 4

At Arlington, Texas, Hank Blalock homered in his fourth straight game, Matt Harrison became the first Texas rookie left-hander to win nine games and the Rangers won their home final over Oakland.

Harrison (9-3) struck out seven over six innings. The only American League starters with more victories than Harrison since he made his major league debut on July 8 are Cleveland's Cliff Lee (11) and Toronto's A.J. Burnett (10).

Blalock's three-run homer, his 11th, erased a 1-0 deficit in the fourth and put Texas ahead to stay. After Blalock was hit by a pitch to start the sixth, Nelson Cruz homered on the next pitch to chase Dana Eveland (9-9).

Travis Metcalf also homered and Michael Young went 4-for-4 with a walk for Texas.

Feds say they'll prove trainer gave Bonds steroids

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Federal prosecutors say they will prove personal trainer Greg Anderson supplied Barry Bonds with the steroids that led to a positive test in November 2000, the offseason before the slugger hit a major league record 73 home runs.

In a court filing Wednesday, prosecutors provided a glimpse of their trial strategy against Bonds, who's accused of lying to a 2003 grand jury investigating steroids use among elite athletes. Prosecutors said they have two documents showing Bonds tested positive for anabolic steroids in 2000 and that Anderson supplied the drugs, but they did not give details.

Prosecutors made the claim in opposing Bonds' bid to have nine of the 15 felony charges against him tossed out.

Bonds has pleaded not guilty to 14 counts of making false declarations to a grand jury and one count of obstruction of justice. He's accused of lying when he said he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs during his 2003 grand jury testimony.

In asking that some of the charges be dropped, Bonds' lawyers argued that prosecutors asked ambiguous and confusing questions during his grand jury appearance.

For instance, Bonds argues that the question, "In the weeks and months leading up to November 2000, were you taking steroids?" is ambiguous because of an ill-defined time element. He answered no.

Prosecutors countered Wednesday that a jury should decide whether the question was unfair. They said the two documents they have showing Bonds tested positive for steroids in November 2000 will put that question into context.

Bonds' lead attorney, Allen Ruby, did not immediately return a call for comment.

Bonds' trial is scheduled to begin March 2.

Lions fire president Millen after 31-84 record

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—Matt Millen insisted he would stick with the tough job of turning the Detroit Lions into a winner instead of returning to the broadcast booth to make easy money. So the Lions got rid of him. Finally.

The Lions fired Millen seven-plus years after the acclaimed TV analyst and Super Bowl-winning linebacker took over as team president for one of the NFL's mediocre franchises and made it the worst.

"I have relieved Matt Millen of his duties effective immediately," Lions owner William Clay Ford said in a statement Wednesday afternoon.

Messages seeking comment were left on Millen's cell phone.

Millen's teams won a league-low 31 games since he took over in 2001, but his boss refused to get rid of him until now.

Bill Ford, son of the team owner, said Monday he would fire Millen if he had the authority.

Detroit was routed in each of its first three games this season, falling behind 21-0 twice and 21-3 once en route to lopsided losses going into its bye week.

"I am very disappointed with where we are as a team after our start this season," Ford added in his statement. "Our sole focus now is preparing for our next game against Chicago."

The 0-3 record dropped Millen to 31-84 overall, giving the Lions at least 10 more losses than any other NFL team since 2001, one of the worst stretches in league history. They gave up a league-high 25.3 points and ranked 30th with 18.3 points a game under Millen, according to STATS.

After winning just five games in his first two seasons, Millen bristled when a reporter told him some people were already predicting he would eventually walk away to get paid stress-free millions as a broadcaster again.

"Those people don't know me that well," Millen said in a 2003 interview with The Associated Press. "I can't not finish something that I started. That bugs me. I've got to get this finished.

"This gray hair shows how much I care. Look at me. I look like Kris Kringle!"

The Lions' front office will now be led by executive vice president Tom Lewand, who will report to the owner on business issues, and new general manager Martin Mayhew, who will report to the owner on football matters.

AP

In this Sept. 16, 2007 file photo, Detroit Lions owner and chairman William Clay Ford, left, talks with team president Matt Millen prior to their NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings.

"These decisions are for the duration of the 2008 season," Ford's statement said. "Once the season is over, we will undergo a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of our entire football operation and put together a plan that we believe will transform this team into a winner."

William Clay Ford also has been the target of criticism because since his first full season in 1964, the Lions have won only one playoff game. He has hired and retained people to lead the franchise, such as Russ Thomas and Millen, who weren't able to build a consistent winner.

In a rare interview late in the 2003 season, the owner said he hadn't considered firing Millen.

"I want him. I don't need any more reason than that," he said.

The tipping point might have been public comments made by the owner's son. Lions vice chairman Bill Ford said Millen should leave the team, and the Ford Motor Co. executive chairman said if he had the authority, he would make moves.

"I think the fans deserve better," Bill Ford told reporters. "And if it were in my authority, which it's not, I'd make some significant changes."

His father finally agreed that Millen had to go.

Drivers of vehicles whizzing past the Allen Park facility beeped their horns and gleefully yelled out about the end of the Millen era.

Eddie Gates drove through the team's parking lot in his minivan as his girlfriend, Sue Stanton, held a sign, "Millen Must Go To Get a Super Bowl," out the window.

"I've been a season-ticket holder for 28 years and because they fired Matt Millen, I'm going to renew," said Gates. "This is the happiest day of my life."

The Fords—father and son—were thrilled when they lured Millen out of the broadcast booth to run their hapless franchise.

"I'm willing to stake my reputation on Matt's success," Bill Ford said after Millen was introduced at a news conference in January 2001.

Millen was the team's first general manager since Thomas left in 1989. The Lions allowed their coaches—Wayne Fontes, Bobby Ross and Gary Moeller—to run the football operation after Thomas resigned.

"We've been pretty much stuck on dead center for quite a few years," William Clay Ford said when Millen was hired. "Matt offers us an opportunity to move ahead."

Coach Rod Marinelli will be left with the task of salvaging something from the final 13 games of the season. But he and the players haven't inspired much confidence with an NFC-worst 10-25 record since 2006.

Ultimately, the Lions are left with Millen's mess that led to a pitiful era that compares only to Tampa Bay's 12 straight double-digit loss seasons from 1983-94.

This offseason was productive and the practices were great, Millen and Marinelli insisted, but that didn't make a difference on Sundays.

The Lions are winless, and 1-10 dating to last season. The latest loss at San Francisco dropped Marinelli to 3-15 on the road and dropped the Lions to 8-60 as visitors with Millen in charge.

The former Penn State standout was an NFL linebacker from 1980-91 with the Raiders, San Francisco 49ers and Washington Redskins. He won the Super Bowl four times.

FoxSports.com was the first to report Millen's departure.

NFL BRIEFS

Favre uncertain if injured ankle will limit him

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Brett Favre was uncertain Wednesday how limited he'll be by a sore ankle during practices this week. The 38-year-old Favre, who has started an NFL record for quarterbacks 256 straight regular-season games, rolled the ankle in the third quarter of the Jets' 48-29 loss at San Diego on Monday night. New York hosts Arizona on Sunday. "He's going to go out and work, and I anticipate him playing on Sunday," coach Eric Mangini said, echoing his comments from a day earlier. Favre gingerly stretched at the start of practice, and limped slightly as he warmed up with the other quarterbacks and later while tossing passes to receivers. He was listed as limited at practice on the team's injury report Wednesday afternoon. "I'm doing everything I can to get ready," Favre said shortly before practice. "How it will affect me during the course of the week or Sunday remains to be seen." Favre has been open about how he's felt physically since signing with the Jets in August, but wouldn't go into details when asked how limited he expected to be this week.

McCarthy: Harris' spleen injury may not end season

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Cornerback Al Harris has a "serious" spleen injury that requires a cautious approach, but he hasn't been ruled out for the rest of the season, Packers coach Mike McCarthy said Wednesday. "I'm hopeful he'll be back," McCarthy said. "The time frame just hasn't been established." Harris was injured in the first quarter of Green Bay's loss to the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday night. The injury is believed to be a ruptured spleen, which sidelined then-Tampa Bay quarterback Chris Simms for the rest of the season in 2006. "It's a serious injury," McCarthy said. "I think that's obvious to everybody. And really, as we move forward, it's a different type of injury. And we will take a cautious approach, and everything we'll do will be in his best interests." Harris, one of the Packers' top defensive players, won't be able to do any significant physical activity for at least a week and will not play in Sunday's game at Tampa Bay.

Browns will stick with QB Anderson against Bengals

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Derek Anderson has kept his starting quarterback job with Cleveland for now. Anderson, who was ineffective during the Browns' three-game losing streak, will start Sunday's game against the Cincinnati Bengals. Coach Romeo Crennel considered benching Anderson for popular second-year backup Brady Quinn, who has played in only one game as a pro. Crennel refused to give reasons for sticking with Anderson. "I'm not getting into the what ifs, the whens, the wheres, how long or anything like that about this decision," Crennel said. "The decision is made and that's what it's going to be." Anderson made the Pro Bowl last season but has been in a prolonged slump dating to the final weeks of 2008. He's thrown two touchdown passes and five interceptions this season, and owns the league's second-worst quarterback rating.

Giants suspend WR Plaxico Burress for one game

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—A yearlong ankle injury could not keep Plaxico Burress out of the New York Giants' lineup last season. The lack of a telephone call this week apparently is going to cost him a game and more than $235,000.

Less than a month after handing the man who caught the winning pass in the Super Bowl a new $35 million contract, the Giants on Wednesday suspended Burress for a game for missing a practice and not calling to explain his absence.

Burress' agent insisted the nine-year veteran had an undisclosed family emergency on Monday and will appeal the ban to the NFL Players Association.

"We have had success here because of the team concept," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said in discussing the suspension, which was handed down during a bye week for the Giants (3-0). "And the team concept means basically that everyone is accountable and responsible and that we don't let the other guys down. And that is what we are trying to do."

As part of the suspension, Burress will not be allowed to practice until after the Oct. 5 game against the Seattle Seahawks. That means he will miss two weekly paychecks, totaling $235,294.12 of his $2 million annual base salary.

The Giants refused to say why Burress was suspended, but agent Drew Rosenhaus claimed Burress had a family emergency that has now been resolved.

Rosenhaus said Burress spoke with Giants director of player development Charles Way on Monday evening, but he added there was "miscommunication" between the player and the team.

When asked specifically why Burress did not telephone the team or answer repeated telephone calls Monday to discuss the absence, Rosenhaus avoided answering the question.

"Again we're acknowledging that there should be some repercussion, but not to the extent where he is denied his right to perform his livelihood to play," Rosenhaus said in a conference call. "We think it is very serious and not very common, but there are things that do take place in the NFL that you could say are worse and have not led to suspension."

Rosenhaus said the NFLPA has not advised him when an arbitrator would hear the appeal, but he hopes Burress is back in the lineup for the Seattle game.

"I hope we can get this worked out and get back out on the practice field and back to playing football for the Giants. That's where he belongs," Rosenhaus said.

Coughlin insisted the suspension will not be a distraction: "This is a team that is focused and displayed mental toughness and they will do the same thing with regard to this."

Coughlin and general manager Jerry Reese informed Burress of the suspension Wednesday morning before the team held practice.

Ex-army general takes charge at NBA refs camp

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—It's still training camp, not boot camp. But the NBA's referees are reporting to a general and he seems the perfect fit for the officials seeking a strong leader to guide them through the toughest times their profession has ever endured.

Ron Johnson, a two-star general who served 32 years in the Army, was hired over the summer as the senior vice president of referee operations. He has just started to meet many of his officials this week during training camp and has made an instant impact.

"I've never seen the morale higher," said Bernie Fryer, who attended camp for 28 years as a referee and is now the NBA's vice president and director of officials.

That's hard to believe coming from a group that's taken as many hits lately as the NBA's referees.

Since the refs arrived here for their six-day camp, Tim Donaghy began serving his 15-month prison sentence for betting on games he officiated and taking cash payments from gambling associates in exchange for information to help them win their bets.

The scandal exploded last summer, and just when Donaghy's former colleagues thought the worst was behind them, blew up again at the worst time, when his lawyer accused them of misconduct and bias during the NBA finals.

"That was a blow to our profession and we took it," veteran referee Joey Crawford said, "and the league was phenomenal supporting us and we supported one another and we got over it. We're getting over it and we're going to move on. We're going to be fine. It's in the past. We have to heal and we're going to."

An entirely new referees operations department is in place to help them do that. Besides the appointments of Johnson and Fryer, Joe Borgia became vice president of referee operations.

Johnson, a former deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was the most surprising hire. He admits to being someone who used to question calls he saw on TV, and joked that he was "uniquely unqualified for this job, (but) since it's a new department, I'm probably the right guy."

Johnson has been learning various officiating procedures and terms, but commissioner David Stern wasn't interested in Johnson's referee skills when he picked him for the new position. He wanted someone to develop and enforce better guidelines and regulations for the officials, such as the rules involving casino gambling that even Stern said had been mishandled.

"I've been in the Army 32 years, I don't tolerate noncompliance," Johnson said. "I mean, we've got rules, we'll follow them."

The sessions Wednesday included reviews of game footage and discussions of calls that were made and missed, quizzes involving rules interpretations, and reminders of areas the officials should focus on in the coming season. There are only three new referees, but even someone like Crawford, entering his 33rd year, said he benefits from some reminders.

"You're always trying to get better," he said. "You cannot believe that you've got this game made as a referee, because I don't even get 100 percent of the plays right in the first quarter. So I'm looking for perfection."

Fryer and Borgia ran most of those sessions, though Johnson, who goes by Ron but is referred to as "the General" by seemingly everyone in the league office, jumped in often.

"I don't think they're afraid, I think everybody is a little bit apprehensive about who the new guy is," Johnson said of the refs. "Am I really their leader, or am I just some guy who's coming in to be a police? No, I'm going to be a leader. Leaders give guys what they need, not necessarily what they want."

Lance Armstrong to ride with Astana in comeback

NEW YORK (AP)—Lance Armstrong is chasing an eighth Tour de France title and an elusive feat: persuading everyone he's clean.

As Armstrong reunites with his close friend and Astana team director Johan Bruyneel, the man behind his yellow jerseys, he's also adding a new member to his support group. Anti-doping expert Don Catlin has been hired to test Armstrong anytime, anywhere—and to post the results online for the world to see.

"I think it's the first time an athlete can actually be totally validated on the chance he's successful," Armstrong said Wednesday. "In my opinion, Don Catlin is beyond reproach."

Armstrong revealed details of his comeback two weeks after saying he would end a three-year retirement. He'll ride for Astana and will compete in the Tour Down Under in Adelaide, Australia, in January.

The setting was the Clinton Global Initiative, the annual meeting of former President Bill Clinton's foundation. Armstrong held a news conference to talk cycling after announcing a new worldwide campaign to fight cancer before an audience of political and corporate leaders.

As he described his 2009 Tour plans, the 37-year-old Armstrong sometimes made it sound as though this was more a publicity move to raise awareness about the fight against cancer than a legitimate shot at winning an eighth title.

"I think we're sure we'll have success with the movement, because we need it," he said in an interview with The Associated Press, "but I'm not sure I'll be the fastest cyclist in the world."

Astana was banned from this year's Tour because of past doping violations. But Pat McQuaid, the leader of cycling's governing body, said he believed the team would be allowed to return in 2009.

The Amaury Group, which owns the company that organizes the Tour, has confirmed in writing to UCI that Astana is on its list of teams "that they say are guaranteed to ride to the Tour de France in 2009 and 2010," he told the AP.

Tour director Christian Prudhomme didn't respond to messages.

The makeup of the 2009 Astana team is unclear. Alberto Contador, the 2007 Tour de France champ, suggested in AS newspaper Tuesday that the two elite riders couldn't coexist on the same team.

In a statement released by Astana on Wednesday, Contador was conciliatory but didn't commit to remaining on the team.

"Right now people are looking to make up controversy, but honestly I have no ill will towards Lance," he said. "I identify with his passion for the sport. He has certainly been a role model for me and others throughout the world, and I imagine having him on Team Astana will only motivate me further."

Contador, signed with Astana through 2010, won the Spanish Vuelta on Sunday. Combined with his 2008 Giro d'Italia title, he became just the fifth cyclist to win the three highest-regarded Tours.

"I think there's room for all of us on that team," Armstrong said.

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Middle Road, Gualo Rai next to Subway.
DELIVERY

Kristo Rai Parish Golf fundraiser this weekend

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 40 players have so far registered for the 3rd Annual Kristo Rai Parish Golf Tournament this Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Tournament coordinator Margaret Dela Cruz said they expect around 85 participants to take part in the one-day event that would benefit the Kristo Rai Parish Church, which is undergoing repairs.

Dela Cruz said players usually come in droves and beat the registration time on event day, which have been the case the past two years when over 80 joined the event.

Registration will start at 6:30am while tee time is set an hour later at 7:30am.

The donation cost will be $100 for each player. This includes green/cart fees, raffle prizes, and banquet cost. Last year, a total of $10,000 was raised for the Garapan church.

Trophies and other gift items will be given to the Top 3 winners of each category.

The awarding ceremony will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort driving range right after the end of the tournament.

Last year, veteran golfer Jeff Taylor bagged the Championship Flight with an even-par 72, narrowly beating Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan, who came in with a 73. Jess Wabol, the 2006 winner, was third last year with his 76.

But Wabol's victory last weekend Sept. 20 in the Club at Hyatt competition was a big morale booster to the former Oleai Elementary School principal as he is again expected to join this weekend's tournament.

Last year's other winners were Ray San Nicolas (A Flight), Rep. Arnold Palacios (B Flight), Joe Saures (C Flight), Manny Tenorio (Seniors Flight), and Lorraine Babauta (Ladies Flight).

HOST

From Page 44

In the ensuing play, Fitial was fouled and split his free throws giving PTI a two-point cushion, 70-68, but Autonomous tied the game anew when Camacho redeemed himself and canned a layup.

That was the last time the game was deadlocked, as Fitial took matters in his own hands, making clutch shots.

He first made a pair of free throws to give PTI a 72-70 advantage, with 1:56 left in the fourth quarter.

ATM called a timeout, but failed to execute their play when Camacho missed on his drive against Bruce Berline. PTI missed, too, giving possession back to ATM, which muffed another game-tying basket with Richard Brostrom's fastbreak layup finding its way out of the hoop.

There was a battle for a loose ball after Brostrom's miss and PTI won, sprinted to its frontcourt, and setup its half court offense wisely killing a few seconds off the clock before Fitial nailed a clutch trey.

Fitial, who rarely attempts from downtown and made only one trey in the first three quarters, drilled a back-breaking triple from the left key with the 24-second shot clock winding down, increasing PTI's lead to five, 75-70.

ATM made one final push to force Game 2, but Tim Wesley missed two free throws, while Fitial answered with two charities to seal PTI's title win.

Fitial finished with 26 points in a game that was physically played, as bodies fell on the floor several times keeping the three referees busy mopping the wet floor.

Ponce Rasa topscored for ATM with 26 points and was the lone Autonomous player to score in double figures. Diaz was held to eight points—a far cry from his 27-point output against NMC in the semis—as he was hobbled by early foul trouble. Diaz was whistled for two fouls in the first period and was called for two more in the second.

Bobby Coldeen, who had 13 points against NMC, also had an off-night, making only five points with one triple. Wesley chipped in eight and was not able to contribute heavily on offense, as he kept himself busy holding his ground against PTI's Twin Towers—Fitial and Berline.

Wesley eventually fouled out with 20 seconds remaining in the game, as he was charged with an unsportsmanlike foul for hitting Ryan Sanciangco on the neck. Earlier in the fourth quarter, Wesley and Sanciangco exchanged heated words after they got tangled up in a fastbreak play. Sanciangco was called back to the bench to cool things off and only returned midway in the fourth period.

PTI 80 – Fitial 26, Esrelon 15, Mendoza 13, Sanciangco 10, Berline 6, Renguul 3, Yamada 2.

Autonomous 70 – Rasa 26, Aaron 9, Diaz 8, Wesley 8, Brostrom 7, Camacho 6, Coldeen 5.

Scoring by quarters: 27-23, 45-36, 63-60, 80-70.

Referees: Gabriel White, Dado Vistal, and Arnold Mesa.

FITIAL

From Page 44

title duel in the 2008 Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fitial fired 26 points in PTI's 80-70 triumph against ATM, drilling clutch baskets that foiled Autonomous' bid to extend the title showdown to Game 2.

Fitial made two free throws that broke the tie and a few seconds later connected on a huge triple that put pressure on ATM.

"My free throw shooting has improved a lot because I practice regularly," Fitial said.

PTI was ahead by only two, 72-70, when Fitial canned the 3-pointer from the left key, surprising his teammates and their opponents, but not himself.

"I was confident I am going to make the shot. I've been hitting them in the regular season, and I was open and had a good look at the basket before I took the shot," Fitial said.

"And before I threw the ball, I looked at my teammates and saw them near the basket. So even if I miss, I knew we have chances to get the ball back," he added.

PTI needed no rebounders, as Fitial's triple hit nothing but the bottom of the net, giving PTI a five-point lead, 75-70, with less than a minute left in the game.

Fitial managed to top score for PTI despite facing Autonomous' physical defense. The 6'2" giant fell hard on the floor several times, as he had to battle Richard Brostrom and Tim Wesley off the boards.

At one point, Fitial's mouth was bleeding after he was elbowed accidentally.

A player with a short temper would normally go after the culprit, but not Fitial who kept his cool and focused on the game.

"I expect to get hit often because I usually play inside. But I don't retaliate, I just walk out and keep my composure. If you let your temper get into your game, you will lose your focus," Fitial said.

"I am glad I won the Finals MVP. This was my first Finals MVP award. I owe this award to my coaches (Elias Rangamar and Rufino Aguon) who have been helping me improve my game and to PTI, which has been sponsoring my fights," Fitial said.

Other individual and team awardees in the PTI caging were recognized in a brief ceremony Thursday night.

Edgar Pangelinan of the Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply was awarded the scoring champion trophy, while Bank of Guam's James Villacrusis took the regular season MVP plum.

Northern Marianas College went home with the pennant trophy, while Bank of Guam claimed the sportsmanship award.

WPS

From Page 44

She was credited for five straight points on her booming serves that gave the Terns a 13-2 lead in the second set.

From then on the Green Geckos never recovered as they moved to within seven points, 11-15, but the Terns easily regrouped and raced to a 24-11 advantage on the way to the win.

The 15-year-old Corella sealed the victory with a double-handed faceback return near the net.

With their latest victory, the Terns are a perfect 3-0 so far at home following their wins over defending champion Seventh Day Adventist on opening day last Sept. 9 and followed that up against the SIS-Blue Geckos on Sept. 18.

The Terns' other home game last Tuesday, Sept. 23, against Calvary Christian School was reset to a later day due to heavy downpour that also affected other matches in different venues.

The Terns were 1-1 on the road. They won over Mt. Carmel School on Sept. 11 but lost to Grace Christian School on Sept. 16.

Coach Richard Brostrom was happy with the way things are happening for the Terns, who were champions in 2005 but lost the title to SDA last season.

The Terns are hoping to continue their winning form when they meet Saipan Community School next on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Other games that were played yesterday were SDA vs. MBA in high school division, SIS-B vs. GCA in both divisions, MCS vs. CCA (both), and SDA vs. SCS in middle school.

Results of these games were still unavailable as of press time.

The GCA Eagles were undefeated in four starts prior to its game against the SIS Blue Geckos as they pace the lead in the middle school division.

The Eagles will meet SDA on Sept. 30 both in the high school and middle school divisions.

Other games Tuesday will have SIS-G vs. CCA (both) and MCS vs. SIS-B in middle school division.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Host Whispering Palms' frontliner Ilia Corella gets another point in her fourth consecutive serve, giving her team a 13-2 lead in the second set of their 25-22, 25-13 triumph over the visiting Saipan International Green Geckos yesterday in the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

LAST-MINUTE

From Page 44

next year and venues are mainly sports fields and rugby fields. The main stadium, the Tereora National Stadium, houses the makeshift tennis courts, which are also used for other sports. An indoor gym is being constructed, but it will be used for netball competitions.

OTF members, like Fiji's and Samoa's tennis associations welcomed the sport's inclusion in the calendar, and are hoping to see a big number of delegates in the tennis competition in the Cook Islands next year.

Early this month, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White announced at the NMASA monthly meeting that the CNMI will be skipping the 2009 Mini Games after failing to get commitments from three sports associations.

Athletics, sailing, and golf had earlier expressed their interests to compete in the Cook Islands. But sailing's Tony Stearns begged off due to personal reasons, while athletics pulled out due to funding problems. Golf officials have yet to inform NMASA about the status of their participation in the Mini Games.

White attended the Pacific Games Council General Assembly last Sunday and was supposed to announce CNMI's non-participation in next year's Mini Games. But with the recent development in the calendar of events, White is expected to discuss the possibility of having CNMI netters in the Cook Islands when NMASA meets next week.

White is also expected to disclose at the NMASA monthly meeting the decision on the eligibility rules.

If the council decides to revert to the old rules implemented before the 2007 South Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, the likes of Heo and Aikawa, who are non-U.S. passport holders, but have been or had been longtime residents of the Commonwealth and had represented the CNMI in various off-island competitions, will be allowed to play.

Aikawa together with Race, Quan, and Tim Montgomery competed in the 2005 Mini Games in Palau.

New Caledonia won the men' and women's team and doubles events. Samoa prevailed in the mixed doubles, while the Cook Islands' Brett Baudinett and New Caledonia's Stephanie Dillucio topped the men's and women's singles, respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Tampa Bay	96	62	.608	_
y-Boston	93	65	.589	3
New York	87	71	.551	9
Toronto	83	75	.525	13
Baltimore	67	91	.424	29

Central Division

Chicago	86	71	.548	_
Minnesota	86	72	.544	1/2
Cleveland	79	79	.500	7 1/2
Kansas City	73	86	.459	14
Detroit	71	86	.452	15

West Division

x-Los Angeles	98	60	.620	_
Texas	77	82	.484	21 1/2
Oakland	75	83	.475	23
Seattle	58	100	.367	40

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	89	70	.560	_
New York	87	71	.551	1 1/2
Florida	82	76	.519	6 1/2
Atlanta	71	88	.447	18
Washington	59	99	.373	29 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	96	61	.611	_
Milwaukee	87	71	.551	9 1/2
Houston	83	74	.529	13
St. Louis	82	76	.519	14 1/2
Cincinnati	74	84	.468	22 1/2
Pittsburgh	65	93	.411	31 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	75	.525	_
Arizona	79	79	.500	4
Colorado	73	85	.462	10
San Francisco	70	88	.443	13
San Diego	61	97	.386	22

x-clinched division
y-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 10, Philadelphia 4
Chicago Cubs 9, N.Y. Mets 6, 10 innings
Florida 9, Washington 4
Houston 5, Cincinnati 0
Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 2
St. Louis 4, Arizona 2
L.A. Dodgers 12, San Diego 4
Colorado 15, San Francisco 6

LOCAL SCORES

SBA 8-Ball Standings

Agingan Division

PTI Voyagers	18	2
Islander Rent A Car	16	8
Saipan Cell Hustlers	16	8
USSP Wat-Ever	7	13
Godfathers Rock Steady	7	17
Coral Reef Shark Attack	4	20

Obyan Division

Primos Home Boys	15	9
D'Pirates Huwa	15	9
Perfect Spotters	14	10
USSP Fotten Palau	11	13
Coral Reef Barracuda	9	15
VFW Warriors	8	16

Magnificent 7 brave 'Bandelin Over-and-Back'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seven Saipan Swim Club swimmers survived the "Bandelin Over-and-Back" 5K Ocean Swim as weather cooperated in last Sunday's race.

The Magnificent 7 include young swimmers Andrew and Grace Kimball, Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce, Maimi Shimizu, Florian Braig, Hiroaki Nishio, and SSC coach Michael Blasberg.

The group left Micro Beach at 6:30am, and arrived at Managaha Island in less than one hour, joining kayakers/guides Steve McKagan and Derek Chambers on the shore.

Swimmers and kayakers took a short break before completing the second part of the race, which is from Managaha Island back to Micro Beach.

Ten-year-old Andrew Kimball surprised the group when he led the swim back to Micro Beach.

"It was a great race. Other than a brief rain, the weather and visibility were great," said Blasberg, who thanked the support crew for ensuring the safety of the swimmers.

"SSC would like to thank the support staff and boating safety crew for providing escort for the team while swimmers crossed the channel," Blasberg said.

The 5K ocean swim is one of the events in SSC's calendar for the 2008-2009 season.

Former SSC coach Michael Stewart named the race after SSC senior swimmer Rachel Bandelin, who wanted to swim from Micro Beach to Managaha and vice versa.

Next month, SSC swimmers will be back at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for a mutual meet with the Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center.

In November, SSC will host another ocean swim with the Eagle Ray 7K kicking off in mid-November. The Eagle Ray race will start from PauPau Beach to Managaha Island.

DAN KIMBALL
Saipan Swim Club swimmers and volunteers pose for a group photo at Micro Beach after completing the "Bandelin Over-and-Back" ocean swim last Saturday. From left, Steve McKagan, Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce, Maimi Shimizu, Grace and Andrew Kimball, Michael Blasberg, Florian Briag, Derek Chambers, and Hiroaki Nishio.

Voyagers regain 8-ball lead via 4-0 win off Hustlers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The PTI Voyagers triumphed over the SaipanCell Hustlers, 4-0, in the battle of telecommunications company-sponsored teams last Tuesday night's in the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

Voyagers pulled off scores of 46-39, 49-31, 43-34 for total of 135-104 to take back the lead behind the shot-making prowess of Luis Fajardo, Roman Rodriguez, Jean Cadag, Jojo Talibong, and Rolly Villanueva.

The team now sports a league-leading 18-2 win-loss record in the Agingan Division of the competition organized by Saipan Billiards Association.

On the other hand, the Hustlers, composed of Senen Pangelinan, Robert Sanciangco, Joey Lucido, Rowel Mariano, and Jerry Soriano, was relegated to a tie at second and third places with a 16-8 slate with Islander Rent A Car.

Islander's Don Antonio, Eric Caisip, Jomer Enriquez, Rey Pinangay, and Joey Cruz also fashioned out a 4-0 blanking off Coral Reef Shark Attack, which was brought further down in the team standings with a woeful 4-20 mark, good for dead last.

Meanwhile, there will be a rematch of the Sept. 16 encounter between the Voyagers and USSP Wat-Ever because the former illegally defaulted the aforementioned game. The Voyagers showed up with only three players in the five-player lineup tournament.

On Sept. 23, Wat-Ever's Ace Elameto, Rick Elepante, Norman Tenorio, Ed Manundoc and Sam Kapileo vented their ire on Godfather's Rock Steady and posted a 4-0 victory at home and moved up to solo fourth place with 7-13 win-loss slate.

MARK RABAGO
Luis Fajardo, seen here in a file photo, and PTI Voyagers reclaimed the pole position in the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after beating SaipanCell Hustlers Tuesday night in the Agingan Division.

Games in the Agingan Division next Tuesday, Sept. 30, will be Wat-Ever hosting Islander; PTI gong up against Coral Reef, and Rock Steady taking on SaipanCell.

In the Obyan Division, the top two teams were beaten at home. D'Pirates Huwa and Primos Home Boys lost to their respective rivals but remained on top with identical 15-9 win-loss records.

Krystal Perfect Spotters shone on the road as they cleaned up D'Pirates, 4-0, with scores of 46-39, 40-39, 47-36 and a total of 145-114, behind the spirited shot-making of Primo Ferrera, Serge Tibudan, Johnny dugos, Eric Piol, and Mario Jumalon. The Perfect Spotters are now in solo third with 14-10.

USSP Fotten Palau, composed of Taylor Watanabe, Mei Rengiil, Ron Chisato, R.E. Rengiil, and John Mongami, moved up to fourth place, improving to 11-13 following its 3-1 win over Home Boys 1.

Coral Reef Barracuda also made up for lost ground by winning at home, 3-1, against VFW Warriors.

The Barracudas' Leonara Sablan, Oscar Sablan, Tom Temateb, Miner Masayos, and John Peter, are in fifth place with a 9-15 record, while the Warriors sport an 8-16 win-loss mark and are alone at the cellar.

Games in the Obyan Division on Sept. 30 will have VFW squaring off against USSP, Perfect Spotters against Home Boys, and Coral Reef locking horns with D'Pirates.

Japanese, Korean riders joining Point Break Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Around 40 flowriders will put on a show in this weekend's 2nd International PIC/Monsters Point Break Open at the Pacific Islands flowrider facility in San Antonio.

The competition, which will bring participants from Korea and Japan, and other Asian countries to Saipan, is similar to a surfing tournament. But instead of a surfboard, riders use a bodyboard in a flowrider water facility which has artificial waves.

Tournament director Glenn Francis Policare said riders will be judged by creativity, variety of movements, speed, difficulty of movement, style, and poise.

A panel of five judges will grade each rider from 0 to 10 with 10 as the highest points.

There will be competitions in four divisions, namely the men's and women's open, kids category, and the grommets. The kids division is for participants in the 12 to 17 age group, while grommets will feature riders in the 11-and-under age group.

The men's and women's open divisions will have a qualifying round tonight to determine the seeding. The qualifier will start at 5pm.

Seedings are needed for pairings in the actual competition tomorrow as tournament format will have a top-ranked rider being pitted with a low-seed one in the two-person heat.

Each rider will be given 45 seconds to one minute to execute their moves. Movements will be categorized from easy to difficult.

PIC is encouraging local riders to join the tournament and challenge Japanese and Korean bets.

"We promise to have a very competitive contests in the men's and women's open. It will be a show of grace, balance, and speed," Policare said.

Entrance fee is $30 for the men's and women's open divisions, while interested participants in the two other age groups will pay only $20. Entrance fees will cover admission to banquet.

Registration in the men's and women's divisions will last until 5pm tonight.

For more information, contact Policare at 234-7976 extension 5147.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A guest at the Pacific Islands Club enjoys a ride in the club's flowrider facility, which will host a tournament this weekend.

Halloween Fun Run slated October 25

DFS Galleria will be sponsoring its first Halloween Fun Run on Oct. 25, Boutique and Luxury Worlds associate store manager Wolf Mojica announced this week.

Mojica said the event, which is envisioned to become an annual activity for running enthusiasts on Saipan, promises fabulous prizes that will be given away at the completion of the run.

Interested participants will pay an entry fee of $10.

The first 150 finishers will receive a T-shirt.

Registration will begin at 5:30am before the start of the fun run at 6am.

The course will cover approximately four miles.

It will start at the traffic light in front of DFS going north to the American Memorial Park, then passes through the park and around the Flag Circle to the pathway and out to the intersection of the Army Reserve.

From there, runners will go through the pathway to the port, then, make a turnaround at the port entrance.

They will then go back to the pathway and into the park again and heads toward the Micro Beach Pavilion and all the way to the Smiling Cove Marina.

Once at the pavilion, the course goes out Micro Beach Road to Beach Road and back to the finishing line at DFS.

Mojica said there would be markings along the route. There would also be volunteers to direct and assist all participating runners.

He said will also be water stations in designated areas.

For more information, interested runners may contact Ben Babauta at 236-2563 or Wolf Mojica at 236-2540. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Magnificent 7 brave 'Bandelin Over-and-Back'

Seven Saipan Swim Club swimmers survived the "Bandelin Over-and-Back" 5K Ocean Swim as weather cooperated in last Sunday's race.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers beat Padres 12-4 to clinch tie for NL West title

Manny Ramirez and Nomar Garciaparra homered, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 12-4 on Wednesday to clinch a tie for their first National League West championship in four years.

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Host PTI dials up championship

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PTI and their supporters pose with their championship trophy after beating Autonomous in the finals of the PTI caging, 80-70, Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial lived up to his nickname hitting big shots in the stretch to power PTI to an 80-70 title win over Autonomous in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fitial scored eight of PTI's last 11 points in the remaining three minutes, 51 seconds of the game to foil Autonomous' bid to force a deciding Game 2. PTI enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals after going undefeated in the playoffs.

Autonomous had several chances to send the title showdown to Game 2, but failed to capitalize on those opportunities with Ed Diaz on the bench.

Diaz was disqualified in the game due to five fouls with less than a minute left in the third period and spent the rest of the match coaching Autonomous. But ATM needed his scoring prowess more than his game pointers, as the dethroned champions played catch-up most of the way.

After Diaz fouled out, majority of the spectators thought PTI will have a walk in the park, but ATM continued its never-say-die attitude and even tied the game twice.

The first time was at 66-all, with 6:54 left in the fourth period. ATM could have seized the lead, but Ponce Rasa split his charities.

A triple by Elmer Esdrelon broke the deadlock, but Autonomous quickly countered with Chris Camacho making an under-goal stab to cut the lead to one, 68-69, with less than five minutes left on the clock.

Rasa had a chance to put ATM in the lead, but missed his layup, while Camacho muffed another opportunity for Autonomous to take back the driver's seat when he was called for a charging foul against Fitial.

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Fitial takes Finals MVP—finally

By ROSELYN MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kelvin Fitial has been playing basketball for many years, but he is known more for being a mixed martial arts fighter with his exploits in the octagon cage earning him the monicker "Big Hit."

But Thursday night, Fitial's effort in the basketball court was finally recognized, as he was named Finals MVP in the PTI vs. Autonomous

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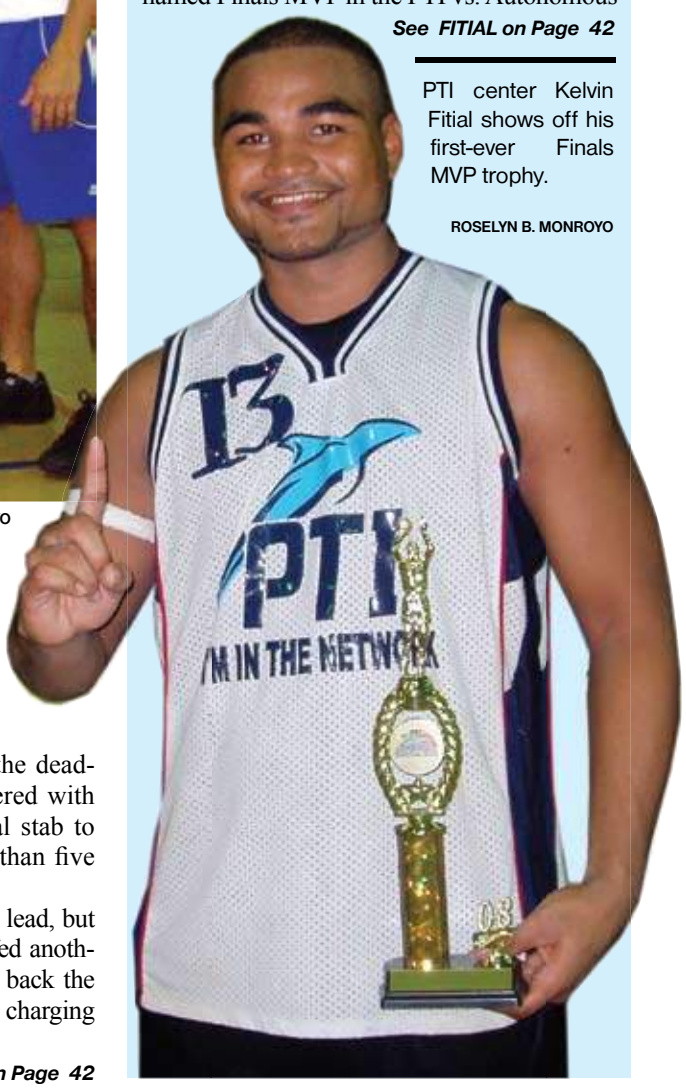

PTI center Kelvin Fitial shows off his first-ever Finals MVP trophy.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Last-minute inclusion of tennis draws interest from NMI netters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With tennis now included in the calendar of events for the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games, there is a possibility that the CNMI will have delegates to the quadrennial meet in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association vice president and CNMI coach Jeff Race said there are several NMI netters interested to join the tennis competition in the Cook Islands.

The list include Kana Aikawa and Tim Quan, who are of- island, and Ji Hoon Heo.

"But nothing is definite yet, more talks are needed before we make any decision. We also have to consider the availability of funds," Race said in a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

"For now, we are happy that tennis is back in the Mini Games," he added.

Tennis was added in the calendar of events in next year's Mini Games, replacing bodybuilding. Early this year, Mini Games organizers scrapped tennis from the list due to the lack of facility.

Cook Islands Tennis Association president Damien Beddoes and former president Brian Baudinett worked on the inclusion of the sports during last Sunday's meeting in Rarotonga after bodybuilding pulled out.

"The biggest challenge for Cook Islands now is to have facilities ready with a short time of preparation. OTF will help where it can," Oceania Tennis Federation executive officer Patrick O'Rourke said in an email to various tennis federations in the region.

The Mini Games will run from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kana Aikawa is just one of three CNMI netters interested to join the tennis competition in the Cook Islands in next year's Pacific Mini Games following the sport's late inclusion in the calendar of events.

WPS Terns spike to 4th win against SIS Green Geckos

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms School is right on target for its third consecutive championship appearance.

The Terns spiked to their fourth win in five games this season over the visiting Saipan International School Green Geckos yesterday in the middle school division of the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

After a hard-earned 25-22 win in the first set, the Terns easily prevailed in the second set, 25-13, as they took advantage of a string of errors by the Green Geckos.

Ilia Corella stepped up when the team needed her most.

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